

Gay Community News

THE NATIONAL LESBIAN AND GAY WEEKLY SINCE 1973

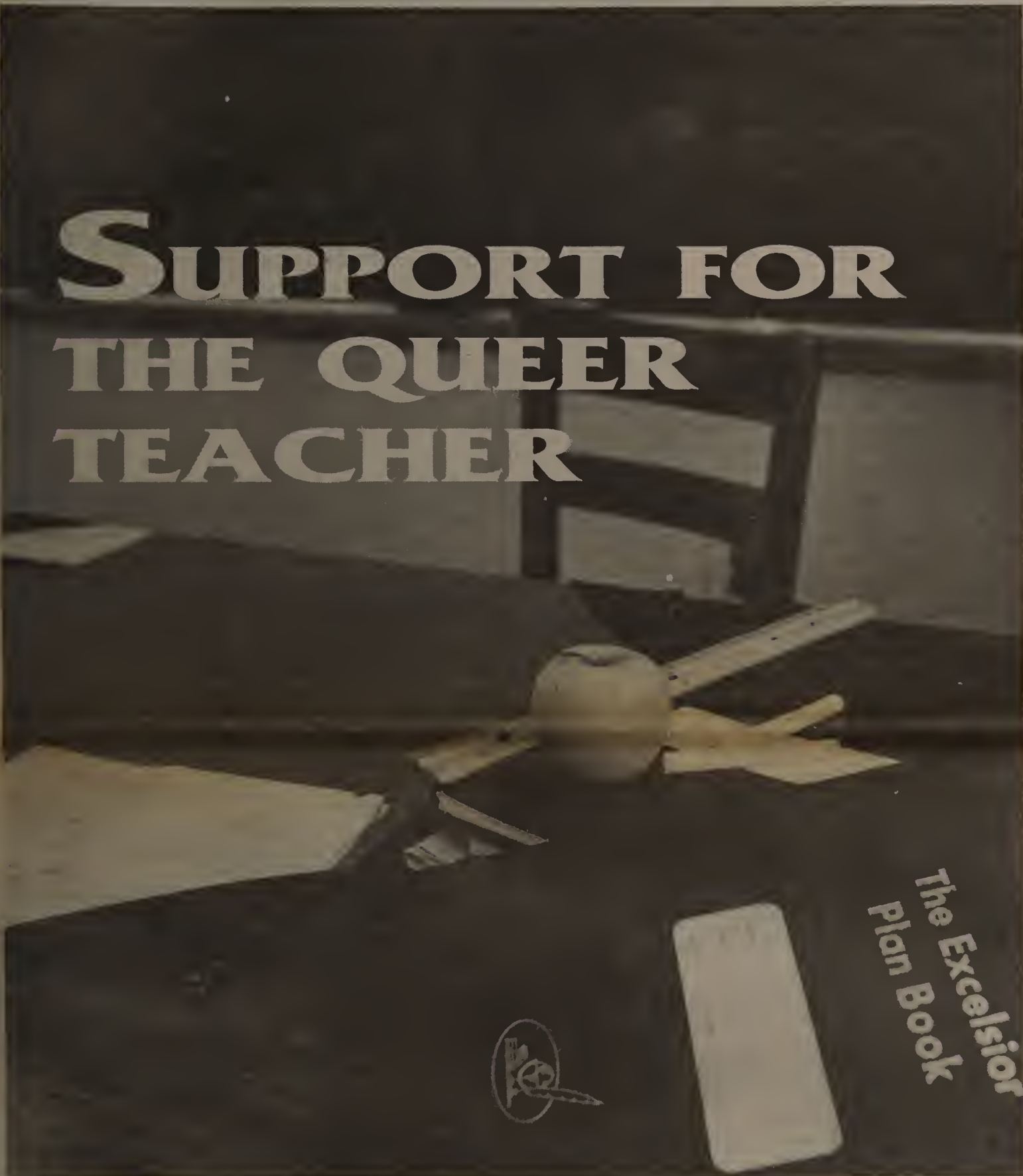
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SUPPORT FOR THE QUEER TEACHER



By Doug Rodgers

BOSTON—Recent research on teen suicide commissioned by the federal government has shown that approximately one-third of adolescent suicides involve questions of sexual orientation, and that gay and lesbian teens are much more likely to take their lives than straight peers. Activists say the statistics make clearer than ever the need for openly gay and lesbian teachers at the elementary and secondary level.

In the Boston area, teachers in private, non-sectarian schools have been the most active in establishing formal frameworks for serving gay and lesbian youth. In January 1991, Kevin Jennings, an openly gay history teacher at Concord Academy in Concord, Mass., founded the Gay and Lesbian Independent School Teacher's Network (GLISTN) at the suggestion of a regional director of the National Association of Independent Schools. The group has been instrumental in developing a network for teachers in the numerous private schools around Boston and in the rest of New England.

For instance, the group is sponsoring a workshop for 40 teachers, Nov. 15-17 on internalized homophobia, its effects within and outside the classroom and ways of reducing it among faculty and students. Another workshop, this one geared to sympathetic straight educators, will be held in April 1992

at Milton Academy.

Jennings calls this gathering Homophobia 101 and hopes participants will leave with an understanding of homophobia and with concrete steps that can be taken to provide a better environment for gay and lesbian students and teachers.

Jennings said he is optimistic about the future. He has seen a "sea of change in the last five years" regarding school administrator's attitudes toward gay and lesbian concerns, and thinks independent schools are on the verge of a major change in the number of out teachers and attitudes toward them. Approximately 30 schools have invited him and other openly gay and lesbian teachers to speak to and hold workshops for school faculty. With the establishment of GLISTN those efforts could continue on a broader scale.

New York City boasts a Lesbian and Gay Teachers Association that lobbied for domestic partnerships. In the public schools, especially suburban schools, there are fewer resources for gay teachers. Efforts in Boston area public schools have been less systematic and more localized. Several bright spots appear in systems generally thought to be progressive.

Newton South High School, located in a western suburb of Boston, is in the midst of an ongoing series of faculty meetings centered on homophobia, and is trying to create

a supportive atmosphere for teachers and students. In the first full-faculty workshop on homophobia, history teacher Bob Parlin, who is Jennings' lover, came out to his colleagues. Other sessions have featured a video and discussion on Project 10, the gay and lesbian student group first formed in Los Angeles high schools; talks by gay and lesbian former students; and meetings with each academic department. All of these programs have received wide coverage in the student newspaper.

In January, the Newton South faculty will go to the students with an anti-homophobia program for seniors and a more general program on hate-motivated harassment for younger students. Parlin sees the primary goals of these meetings and workshops as reducing harassment based on difference, incorporating gay and lesbian content in the curriculum, and, with out teachers, offering role models for both gay and lesbian, and straight, students.

Yet pressures on openly gay students and faculty are still present. Arthur Lipkin, a Rindge and Latin teacher for 20 years who came out in 1980, said teachers still face sweaty palms and nervewracking anxiety when coming out in the classroom. Even in schools with the best institutional support, he thinks gay and lesbian teachers will face these anxieties.

continued on page 11

High School students come out

For National Coming Out Day, Cambridge high school students don pink triangles—a first!

By Liz Galst

By the end of third period, a few ninth grade boys were running, half flying through the halls, sticking the pink triangle stickers they'd gotten in home-room on the backs of their friends, and then almost falling over into doubled-up balls of laughter. Then they got caught by photography teacher Al Ferreira, the openly-gay advisor to Project 10 East, Cambridge Rindge and Latin's in-school support program for queer kids, and had to give them back. Tough luck.

I was walking through the halls with Jessica—16, out, already a *macher* in the Boston Alliance of Gay and Lesbian Youth—past row after row of brightly colored lockers into a warm sun that was really too warm for October. We were getting a few not-too-favorable looks, which I was very aware of, but she didn't seem to mind much. "I'm glad when people look at me that way, because it makes them think about being gay and what it's like."

In the American History class I'd just come from, Mr. Martin took the pink triangle sticker off his shirt, held it up to the class and said, "You all know what this means. It's terrible that there's a need to wear these. It's deplorable that people behave in [homophobic] ways to each other." A young man, maybe a junior, asked how did a symbol of oppression become a symbol of pride? No one really answered his question, and a heated discussion ensued. Mr. Martin suggested this young man wear the pink triangle as an educational experiment and perhaps this would answer his question. "I don't feel the need," the young man replied, and half the class jumped on him.

In Ms. Lipkin's ninth grade English, I was thrilled to discover how much the students already knew about the pink triangles, both their current symbolism and their roots in the Nazi past. Several of the students carefully recounted the apocryphal story of the Danish King Christian who, in solidarity, wore a yellow star during the Nazi occupation and helped prevent the deaths of thousands of Danish Jews. Indeed, in Ms. Lipkin's class, there was such a demand for the triangles that a student had to be sent to the main office to get more. All the girls sported them, and even some of the boys, who managed simultaneously to assert a budding machismo and a pro-gay stance. Like when one boy asked his friend, "Why do you want that?" and got the reply "Why do you think, bozo!"

This is National Coming Out Day at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School (CRLS), the Cambridge high school. Posters with giant pink triangles lined the halls. There was a display in the school library window. Over the school PA during home-room this announcement was heard: "National Coming Out Day commemorates the October 11, 1987, March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. Its goal is to increase the visibility of the 25 million lesbians and gay men in the U.S. who cross all ethnic, racial, geographic and economic lines.

"Today, some teachers and students will be wearing pink triangles to show their support for the gay and lesbian community.

"As has been our policy in the past, we ask that everyone be respectful of those that express opinions that may be different than

continued on page 11

Condoms cause ruckus at shelter

SOMERVILLE, Mass.—The director of a homeless shelter was fired because she insisted on providing condoms and safe sex education, according to the *Boston Globe*. Catholic Charities, which runs St. Patrick's Shelter for Homeless Women in Somerville, fired Gayle Basten when she refused to stop the condom distribution.

"I think they should hire [Basten] back on her terms," former resident of the shelter Betty Finn told *GCN*. Finn and her roommates Susan Monroe and Sylvia Orlando—all former residents and lesbians—have called upon members of the gay and lesbian community as well as advocates for the homeless to support Basten's re-instatement. "We want the support of the entire gay community with this," said Monroe.

Basten was fired, according to Catholic Charities, because of her insistence on making condoms available to residents and on providing AIDS education that included discussions of condom use. "Abstinence must be the approach" to AIDS education, Joseph Doolin, Catholic Charities archdiocesan director, told the *Globe*. The shelter is publicly funded.

"I think the women [who stay at the shelter] should make their own decisions about safe sex and about birth control—not the Catholic Church," said Monroe. Monroe and Finn said Basten should not have been fired for providing information that could save women's lives, adding that Basten "has kept that shelter together and helped the women a lot," Finn said.

A demonstration for Basten's reinstatement was called for Nov. 15. —Dawn Schmitz

Dyke disability activists arrested

ORLANDO, Fla.—Three lesbians were among 73 members of a disability advocacy group who were arrested Oct. 6 for blocking the entrance to a convention of the American Health Care Association (AHCA). Members of American Disabled for Attendant Programs Today (ADAPT) blocked the entrance to the hotel holding the convention to "demonstrate how people with disabilities are inconvenienced every day," according to the newsletter of the Atlanta Lesbian Feminist Alliance (ALFA).

ADAPT demanded funding for home care attendants as part of an effort to gain the independence of living at home for people with disabilities. The three lesbians who were arrested were also members of ALFA.

According to the ALFA newsletter, the 39 women who were arrested were poorly treated during their two days and two nights at the jail. Conditions were inadequate and medication was withheld causing one woman with cerebral palsy to have convulsions, the newsletter stated.

Conditions in the men's jail were reportedly better than those in the women's jail, and an ADAPT lawyer who visited the 34 male prisoners was not sent to visit the women. —Dawn Schmitz

Military discrimination challenged in Congress

WASHINGTON—Members of Congress introduced a resolution Nov. 6 challenging the military's discrimination against lesbians and gay men. The resolution urges President Bush to rescind Defense Department policy so that "all Americans, regardless of sexual orientation, currently serving their country in the Armed Forces, and those who want to serve, will not be prevented from, or punished for doing so."

According to Tim Drake of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), the appeal was made because Bush has the power to reverse the policy through an executive order. "The president can change this [anti-gay policy] and we wanted to keep the pressure centered on him," he told *GCN*.

Although the policy can be overturned through legislation, there is a tradition in Congress of not attempting to change Pentagon personnel policy, Drake said. Lobbyists felt some members of Congress would use that tradition as an excuse to refuse to take on the DoD policy, he added. Calling for a resolution instead of a law overturning the ban was a way to get as many congressional sponsors as possible. The resolution was introduced in the House of Representatives by Rep. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.).

"Gay men and lesbians have served in the

American military for years, many with great distinction," said Rep. Gerry Studds (D-Mass.), a co-sponsor of the resolution. "The overwhelming majority of the American people now support their right to serve with dignity and free from prejudice."

—Dawn Schmitz

California court grants gay job rights

SAN DIEGO—As protests continue in the wake of Gov. Pete Wilson's Sept. 30 veto of AB101, legislation that would have barred job discrimination against gay men and lesbians, an appeals court has ruled that existing California laws already provide protections based on sexual orientation.

On Oct. 28, an appeals court ruled in the case *Soroka v. Dayton Hudson Corp.* that a psychological screening test required by job applicants violated the constitutional right to privacy because it required the applicant to reveal his or her sexual orientation.

The following day, the head of the Department of Industrial Relations ordered the state labor commissioner's offices to begin accepting complaints of job discrimination based on sexual orientation, according to *Update*, a Southern California gay paper.

Keith Johnson, of the Lobby for Individual Freedom and Equality (LIFE Lobby), told *GCN* that the appeals decision differs from AB101 because a court case can be overturned by the state supreme court.

In addition, AB101 would have been administered through the Fair Employment and Housing Act, which has a statute of limitations on discrimination claims of one year, while the labor commissioner's office only allows 30 days to report discrimination.

Johnson noted the irony, however, that more employers will be potentially affected through the court ruling, since—unlike AB101—it will include nonprofits, religious organizations and small businesses.

LIFE Lobby is planning to introduce gay rights legislation stronger than AB101 early next year. The new legislation "will not be as timid and as flexible as AB101 was," Johnson said. "This time there will be no compromise." —Dawn Schmitz

Gay Republican gets Wilson refund

SAN FRANCISCO—Furious at Gov. Pete Wilson's veto of AB101, a gay man who had contributed to Wilson's gubernatorial campaign in 1988, after Wilson told him he supported gay rights, got his money refunded, according to the *Bay Area Reporter* (BAR).

Michael Moore and his lover, Mike Thakar—both registered Republicans—had contributed a total of \$7,000 to Wilson's campaign. —Dawn Schmitz

FOR THE ACTIVIST IN YOU

National

- Register now for the fifth annual Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Conference, taking place Feb. 12—Feb. 17 at the Clarion Hotel Oakland in Oakland, Calif. The conference attracts thousands nationwide each year for a joyous celebration and important political work. Registration forms are available from the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum, (213) 666-5495.

Hotel reservations must be made directly with the hotel *before Jan. 21, 1992* at (800) 932-4550 or (415) 562-6100. Room rates run from \$80 to \$250 per night, plus ten percent tax. Callers should identify the sponsoring organization as "NBGLLC."

Local

- Demonstrate Mon., Nov. 18, 4:30-6 p.m. at Brigham & Women's Hospital against Frank Austen, who refuses to give out the AIDS drug clarithromycin through an approved expanded access program. Austen is chair of Rheumatology & Immunology at B&WH, and is on the Board of Abbot Pharmaceuticals, which makes clarithromycin. Info: (617) 49 ACTUP.

- Phone zap the Archdiocese of Boston to support Gayle Basten, the director of a women's homeless shelter who was fired for distributing condoms (see story, page 2).

- If you're a recipient of General Relief, to keep getting benefits, you must contact your welfare worker within 10 days of receiving your "informational notice." Call Mass. Law Reform for more info: (617) 742-9250. Got activist news? Call 426-4469; fax 426-2723.

Investors targeted

NEW YORK—Aimed at mobilizing the influence of institutional investors to combat anti-gay discrimination, the Wall Street Project held its first meeting Oct. 24.

The goal of the project is to pressure major U.S. corporations to renounce anti-gay discrimination in their development.

abortions and a requirement that a parent come to a doctor's office to give "informed" consent for a minor's abortion.

Pro-choice activists maintain that such requirements impose an undue burden on women.

Gay Community,
This space is yours!

But unless you help GCN now,
this page, and the rest of GCN,
will be gone forever.

We need to reach our goal of \$25,000
by December 1. See page 5, and please
don't wait until it's too late!

Lesbians hired jointly

IOWA CITY, Ia.—In a first for same-sex couples, the University of Iowa School of Law hired both members of an openly lesbian couple to join their faculty this fall.

Professors Jean C. Love and Patricia Cain had spent the last seven years looking for permanent appointments at the same law school. Impressed by both women's strong credentials in their respective fields of law, the university hired them without regard to their sexuality or their romantic relationship.

—Jacob Smith Yang

point said Cronin, who was exposed to HIV through preventive health care. Cronin also said the lack of access to drug treatment that goes along with Medicaid will have severe effects on people of that age group.

Because the implementation of these cuts is not scheduled until Dec. 1, Cronin said, he and ACT UP/Boston have called for people to protest the administration's actions through a phone zap. "If people scream loudly enough," he said, "We can prevent the government from going ahead with these cuts."

—Dawn Schmitz

Students declare war on ROTC

Campus groups renew last spring's effort to ban ROTC; university administrators, faculty and student governments back efforts on some campuses, but state legislatures in Illinois and Ohio vote to protect ROTC from student activism.

By Jacob Smith Yang

TAMPA, Fla.—Openly gay student Michael Gagne is asking the University of Tampa (UT) and the Army to allow him to take a Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) leadership lab, pressing for his right to have the same academic opportunities as non-gay students.

ROTC guidelines mirror those of the Department of Defense (DoD), disallowing gay and lesbian service members. Yet UT has an anti-discrimination clause that includes sexual orientation as a protected category. As a compromise, university officials offered Gagne the opportunity to take another leadership course, taught by non-military personnel and lacking the uniform issuance, military drill and rifle instruction of the ROTC version.

"This compromise reminds me of the period when the federal government set up different educational facilities for Black children," Gagne told *The Advocate*. "Back then, separate wasn't equal. And it still isn't."

Across the country, anti-gay exclusion from ROTC continues to be a central issue of gay and lesbian student activism on college campuses.

Last April, over 100 campuses participated in a "National Day of Action" to end the military discrimination organized by the United States Student Association (USSA) (see *GCN*, Vol. 18, No. 38). Jennifer Bills, a co-chair of the gay/lesbian/bisexual caucus of the USSA, said the group's efforts to end the DoD exclusionary policy targeted the President, Congress and campus ROTC programs. In addition, more and more university administrations are getting behind student activists to pressure ROTC and DoD to rescind its discriminatory ban on gay and lesbian service members.

This January, USSA will coordinate a mailing and fax-in campaign to President George Bush, asking him to issue an executive order rescinding the military policy. Also, students are being urged to lobby and write letters to their U.S. Representatives.

"A change in the U.S. military policy is not going to happen through an executive order or through the courts," asserts Kelly Dermody, co-chair of the lesbian, gay and bisexual caucus at the law school at the University of California, at Berkeley. One of the first anti-ROTC activists at Harvard University in 1989, Dermody added, "The only way it can happen is through the kind of political action we are seeing by students on college campuses."

Bills emphasizes that the current campus issue is military's exclusion of gay men, lesbians and bisexuals, not one of protesting U.S. militarism. "In other schools, the Left is prostituting the lesbian/bisexual/gay issue to kick the military off campuses," charged Bills. "Those two issues must be distinguished."

Student strategies

Coalition building with other student groups, faculty members and administrators is a primary part of campus organizing around the ROTC issue.

Exclusion of gay and lesbian students from the University of Wisconsin (UW) ROTC program was a heated issue in the Spring of 1990, and the combined effort of gay/lesbian, ethnic and progressive student groups climaxed in a five-day sit-in by 150 students in one of the administrative buildings.

Since then, UW's student union has backed the activists, voting to ban military recruiting from its premises, and the faculty senate has approved a resolution to phase the ROTC by 1993 unless the military ban on gay men and lesbians is lifted. Each group cited the university anti-discrimination statement and state law, which prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation. Similarly the University Affairs Director has asked that a disclaimer be put on all university materials, pointing out that while the ROTC discriminates against gay men and lesbians, the university does not. UW President Donna Schalala has also attempted to appease activists by initiating a university lawsuit against the DoD.

Berkeley's Dermody said her group has effectively driven most military recruiters from her law school by rendering their campus visits inefficient. Last year, sign-up sheets for recruiting interviews were quickly filled by gay and lesbian students and their supporters. Many recruiting representatives did not bother to return to the school this

year.

Several schools across the country have either barred ROTC and military recruiting or approved plans to phase out ROTC programs unless the military ban on lesbians is dropped over the next three to five years.

On Sept. 12, Dartmouth College's Board chairperson Ira Michael Heyman issued a statement saying the college would abandon its ROTC program unless the DoD policy was rescinded by April 1993.

The New York State Division of Human Rights also took action ordering the State University center at Buffalo to bar campus military recruiters because they discriminate against gay men and lesbians. Gov. Mario Cuomo later said the order was unenforceable because of a state education law that allows the military to recruit wherever private employers do.

Administrations respond

A post Viet Nam War resurgence of student activism against campus military recruiting and the ROTC program has been seen at the University of Oregon over the past four years, according to the USSA's Bills, who is also that university's student body president. On Oct. 30, the University of Oregon's Student Board, which sets the budget and policy for the student union, voted to oust all military and ROTC recruiting in the building.

The Student Board's decision was subsequently appealed and vetoed by University President Myles Brand, who argued that it was unfair to deprive students the opportunity to receive financial aid or pursue a military career after graduation.

Student activists countered that it is also unfair to allow only non-gay students the opportunities afforded by on-campus military recruiting.

While Brand has publicly stated that he does not think campuses should be "a tool of social change," pressure from student groups has convinced him to accompany Bills on a January trip to Washington D.C. to lobby Congress to rescind the DoD anti-gay policy. Similarly, Bills believes the last four years of student activism on the issue led to the unexpected announcement by the Oregon Board of Education, condemning the military's anti-gay exclusion.

Obstacles: turnover and state legislatures

Ultimately, the University of Wisconsin Board of Regents will decide whether the school will disallow ROTC or even pursue a lawsuit against the DoD. Last February, regents voted to retain the ROTC program and has ignored student protests calling for them to reconsider the issue.

Victor de Jesus, a senior and director of the student association's Civil Rights and Concerns Office, said that activism around the ROTC issue has died down on his campus, partially due to the stress of the academic calendar and student activists graduating and moving on. Presently, he is working to educate freshmen and sophomores on the issue and rebuild coalitions that made the Spring 1990 actions so successful.

Another obstacle facing gay and lesbian ROTC activists are state legislators who seek to forbid any ban on military recruiters or ROTC. Such an law was overwhelmingly passed by the Illinois legislature, only to be vetoed by Gov. Jim Edgar (see *GCN*, Vol. 19, No. 13).

A similar amendment was tacked on to the Ohio state budget by legislators and signed into law by Gov. George Voioovich in late August. And while Ohio State University gay and lesbian activists may not be able to legally kick ROTC off campus, they have been able to make it so several ROTC courses are no longer offered for credit, because they are not open to everybody.

'Sounding board'

The appeal of organizing gay and lesbian student activism around the issue of ROTC anti-gay discrimination perplexes some anti-military activists, who question why progressively minded students want to fight so hard to be able to join the U.S. military.

Dermody, who was active in protesting ROTC at Harvard University in 1989, explained that "ROTC represents the most exclusive form of homophobia that is con-

Continued on page 11

Tufts students demand gay studies after harassment

MEDFORD, Mass.—While many gay and lesbian students battle homophobia by tackling campus ROTC, the ongoing struggle for visibility, respect and protection continues throughout the country.

In response to the administration's failure to deal with anti-gay harassment on campus, more than 150 members and supporters of Tufts University's lesbian, gay and bisexual community held a rally, Nov. 4.

Chanting "Gay house, gay studies and gay rights now," participants called upon the Tufts administration to pursue an active anti-homophobia campaign. Specifically, they demanded the implementation of homophobia awareness workshops and the creation of a full-time salaried "liaison to the administration" to represent community concerns.

According to the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Community, a student advocacy group, nine official cases of anti-gay harassment have occurred at Tufts over the past two years. Seven of these complaints were never resolved to the satisfaction of the victims, while two are still pending.

Commenting on the administration's approach to complaints of homophobia, group member Sharon Wachsher told the *Boston Globe*, "At best they have been apathetic, at worst they have been homophobic and hateful." Wachsher told the crowd she has been frequently verbally harassed on campus and even threatened with a baseball bat because she is lesbian. Other members of the Tufts community similarly spoke out on the frequency of campus gaybashing.

A part-time administrative liaison to the Tufts gay community is currently on campus 10 hours per week. Only under pressure from students did the administration agree to fund the position a week before the protest. Tufts officials cite financial constraints as the primary obstacle to meeting student demands for gay studies courses and a gay house.

Speakers at the Tufts rally included several openly gay and lesbian public figures: Boston City Council member David Scondras, Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination Chair Michael Duffy, Pride Committee Chair Janet Kyle and Gay/Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD) Executive Director Kevin Cathcart.

"You don't need a committee to study gay life," Scondras told the crowd. "We need to study straight life on why they keep pushing us."

—Jacob Smith Yang

Lesbian student harassed after kissing woman

WALTHAM, Mass.—A female Brandeis University student who kissed another woman at a school-sponsored event, Oct. 25, was subsequently singled out as a target for stone-throwings and harassing phone calls.

Sharon Astyk, a sophomore member of Triskellon—Brandeis University's gay, lesbian and bisexual student coalition—participated in a "bisexual round" of "The Dating Game."

Following the format of the popular television game show, the annual event has been part of the Student Events calendar for several years. This was the first year Student Events organizers and Triskellon members had planned a "bisexual round."

"In our opinion the Dating Game was heterosexual and stupid," Astyk told *GCN*. "We decided to participate to make a statement."

After two "heterosexual rounds" of the game, Triskellon members participated in the third, where "bachelorette" Hilary Lipka posed questions to a bachelor and two other bachelorettes. Lipka chose Astyk, and a kiss was exchanged between the two women when introduced face-to-face on stage. "The initial response of the student audience was some applause, some boos and a lot of shock," said Astyk.

For three days following the event, some students also responded by harassing Astyk. She received nine threatening phone calls and experienced three on-campus rock-throwing incidents.

"I am shocked and disgusted. I didn't think these kind of things happened at Brandeis," said Joe Siebel, a Brandeis senior and co-coordinator of Triskellon. "For the first time, I am too scared to walk to the dorms alone."

University President Samuel O. Thier issued a statement Nov. 1, condemning verbal and physical harassment of "any individual based on his or her sexual preference." He also assured that the "alleged" harassment and attacks against Astyk are being investigated by campus and town police.

In an effort to increase community awareness following Astyk's experiences, Triskellon is sponsoring "Homophobia Awareness Week," Nov. 18-21. Events include speakers, a presentation and discussion of homophobic films and a campus anti-homophobia rally. For more information, call (617) 736-4761.

—Jacob Smith Yang

GCN JOBS

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Available immediately. Responsible for financial management using computerized accounting system. for accounts payable and receivable. staff payroll and generating regular financial reports. Perform general office management tasks. Develop and maintain bookstore sales and bookstore accounts. Negotiate and maintain longterm exchange advertisement contracts. Act as one of two staff liaisons to the Board of Directors. This position will work closely with the development coordinator on long-range financial planning and developing annual budgets.

Qualifications: Strong administrative and financial skills and experience. Experience with non-profit management or bookkeeping preferred. Strong interpersonal and group meeting skills.

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Available in December. Research, investigate and write news stories with a national scope. May include some analytical feature writing as well. Share responsibilities with other staff writer for coordinating weekly mailing of paper and processing subscriptions.

Qualifications: Strong writing skills and ability to write several stories under weekly deadline pressure. Knowledge of national/local lesbian and gay community and issues helpful. Strong organizational and record-keeping skills as well as knowledge of data entry and/or computers also helpful.

Deadline for application: Dec. 8, 1991

GCN Positions All GCN positions require commitments to lesbian gay liberation feminism, anti-racism, an awareness of class issues, and collective decision-making.

Salary Benefits: All positions pay \$230/week and include health life insurance through Harvard Community Health Plan, dental allowance, sick leave, and four weeks paid vacation. GCN offers staff members responsibility for their own jobs, with flexibility and ample room for innovation.

C.R.A.M.

Dear *GCN*:

I heard of a new action movement sprouting up all over the nation. It's called C.R.A.M. It stands for Convict Retaliatory Action Movement and because it's of a violent nature, no organized member will give a location of it's office(s). To my understanding, it's for convicted felons who have served time and been subjected to psychological abuse by prison officials and administration. Any person I hear who after release retaliates against any prison official can claim status under C.R.A.M.

It's not hard to believe that most all prisoners whether state or federal come out of prison with a bitter attitude rather than "rehabilitated." Prisons may have many programs that try to help those become once again useful members of society, but for those few, and sometimes many guards and officials to invoke a power of authority and abuse of authority, this treatment of rehabilitation quickly reverses itself.

It is my opinion that under new sentencing guidelines, abuse of authority and many other factors, you will start to find a new breed of people coming out of these prisons. Ones who are hateful and bitter thus creating more victims as they are free.

State and federal governments might want to look into their own internal problems and weed out those officials and guards who treat prisoners less than human. These wrongful guards had never had any type of power and authority and then become prison guards. Now they can abuse their authority and subject prisoners to the worst kind of treatment—psychological abuse.

I mostly disagree with C.R.A.M.'s violent approach of retaliation, but the matters will become worse if someone doesn't stop this abuse of power.

Personally, I have no suggestions or answers. Maybe someone else does.

Jack Leck II
Lemon Creek Correctional Center
Juneau, AK 99801

Festival womyn speak out

Dear *GCN*:

Some letters have been printed in the press in recent weeks regarding the womon-only policy of the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival as it relates to transsexuals participating in the event. We would like to clarify our policy and explain the circumstances which brought it to light this last August.

In the simplest of terms, the Michigan Festival is and always has been an event for womyn, and this continues to be defined as womyn-born-womyn. We respect everyone's right to define themselves as they wish. It's unfortunate that our choice to offer the Michigan Festival as an event for womyn-born-womyn is being construed by some as a position on the merits of people making individual choices on how to live. We mean only to define who this event is for. We hold dearly our right to make this determination and in the same regard we believe that it is the right of every other womyn's institution and community to define these issues depending on their own particular needs and concerns.

We regret that the circumstances at this year's Festival may have been a result of a lack of current public information on this policy. We think it is understandable that our priority would not be centered around who our event is *not* for, and we have deliberately refrained from placing our focus in that direction, though we have always been definite about our policy when asked. When it was clear this summer that there was a known transsexual man attending the event, the Festival security staff dealt with it as respectfully as possible. We provided local housing at our expense, offered return airport transportation, and refunded the Festival ticket. Though the letter to the press represents Festival security coordinators in a derogatory manner, these womyn took much time and care to make sure this difficult situation was dealt with as considerately as possible.

It may be valuable to know that the Festival working community processed this issue in meetings after the event, and it is clear from those discussions that the group of womyn who come together to create this gathering supports this Festival policy. Though everyone was passionate about the issue and held caring feelings for all sides of the experience, it was still the overwhelming consensus that the intention of the Festival remain an event provided for womyn only.

In the bigger picture of "Michigan," we feel very good about this 16th Festival, and we are back to work making plans for the 1992 Festival. Our primary commitment is to keep our focus and energy on womyn and on presenting the best week of womyn's culture and community that we know how to create.

Lisa Vogel
Barbara Price
Producers Michigan
Womyn's Festival
Walhalla, Mich.

Requesting your support

Dear *GCN*:

Over the last decade it has become socially acceptable for business to permanently replace workers during a strike situation. The phenomenon seems to be part of a larger pattern of deterioration in long standing relationships in the work place. Today it is not uncommon for an employer to release an employee, and while she is cleaning out her desk suggest that she check with a particular temporary agency. A week later the desperate worker finds herself back at their old job, perhaps at the same salary, but without holidays, sick time, vacation, insurance, retirement, or any sense of stability. The employer has severed the two-way obligation, and the worker is left dangling on a day to day string. She is the lucky one. Many more are simply dumped for new temporaries, or lost to restructuring, runaway shops, plant closings and the like, with attendant devastation for individuals, families and communities.

Back in the unionized shops a new breed of consultant has emerged, specializing in decertification of unions. One such consulting firm is West Coast Industrial Relations Associates. Their sales literature boasts of many successful decertifications. Their method of operation is simple and consistent. By demanding unrealistic concessions they force a strike, then immediately and perma-

nently replace the work force.

Burke Distributing Corporation, the Boston area beer distributor for several products, most notable the Miller line, has contracted West Coast in their current negotiations with Teamster Local 122 which represents the Company's drivers, helpers, warehousemen, mechanics and salesmen. The members of Local 122 continue to work, even though their labor agreements have expired in the hope of averting a strike. Unfortunately, West Coast still is insisting upon a massive deconstruction of those union contracts.

We're convinced that practices such as those outlined here will continue until society, and particularly socially concerned organizations, begin to question such activity and demand social responsibility. Perhaps the outrage has to begin one company, one event at a time. To that end the 135 family men working at Burkes will be requesting your support in the event of a permanent replacement strike. If you anticipate being able to help us, it would be beneficial to let the company known now while there is a chance for them to correct their course.

We certainly understand any reluctance to get involved on the strength of one letter from one side of a labor dispute. In the absence of unqualified support we hope you consider contacting Burkes and requesting their side of the story. The address is:

William H. Burke, President
Burke Distributing Corporation
89 Teed Drive
Randolph, MA 02368

If you would like to discuss this further or require more information, please feel free to contact us.

John F. Murphy
Paul Cannon
Teamsters, Local 122
Boston, Mass.

He said he would make my life not worth living

Dear *GCN*:

I write you in a very emotional state. I pray you can help me out by printing this letter so that your readers might be able to understand some of what goes on in the Oregon prison system for gay men and also so that I may gain support and friends in this great time of need. I'm a 26-year-old gay male. I have been in the Oregon corrections for three years now. I have two left.

When I first came here to the corrections there were only a handful of open gay men. No more than 10. This institution has only been open for about seven years. Now the population has over doubled since I got here and there is a large amount of homosexuals now. Which we all refer to as family.

I have always been gay but when I got here I had to become somewhat closeted. now I'm completely out in the open. In the last three years I have had sexual contact only once and I was caught by staff. I received two months in segregation (hole). I was also what the called "red tagged." Now for which I can't be in a cell. I'm only allowed on a dorm.

I recently moved to a dorm where all of my problems have started and I'm in a state of despair. I am being discriminated against by officers and the administration for being a homosexual. I'm not alone, there are others too. I have had the same job taken away from me twice because one officer doesn't want a homosexual in the position. I have been woken up at 3:30 a.m. in the morning to be told to tuck in my pillow case. I have been woken up at 4:00 a.m. to be told to scrub walls. Just today I was called down to the Lieutenant's office and told because I wrote a discrimination complaint about three officers that he, the Lieutenant, was going to make my life not worth living. Upon returning to my unit the officer told me that I couldn't speak to anyone unless I was out in the yard. While others were conversing or I would go to the Hole and not get out.

These are just some of what's going on. The Oregon corrections refuses to do anything about discrimination against homosexuals. I'm not legal minded but I'm not stupid either. I will do all I can to fight for my brothers and sisters as well as my-self. Not only do I have these ongoing problems. I also have a lover who is dying, and we may not make it to the streets before he's gone. I need any and all support I can get. Including anyone who knows of an attorney that could take my case or help.

Lawrence (Chris) Conchin
#6559425
2500 Westgate
Pendleton, OR 97801

Gay Community News

Gay Community News is produced by a collective dedicated to providing coverage of events and news in the interest of gay and lesbian liberation. The collective consists of a paid staff of ten, a general membership of volunteers, and a board of directors elected by the membership.

Opinions reflected in "editorials" represent the views of the paid staff collective. Signed letters and columns represent the views and opinions of the authors only. We encourage all readers to send us comments, criticism, and information, and to volunteer and become members.

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GCN Editorial Guidelines

The "Community Voices" and "Speaking Out" sections in GCN represent part of our efforts to provide a true forum for the community. We encourage you to send your ideas, feelings and comments to us, and to respond to ideas expressed within our pages. We welcome all contributions except personal attacks.

Letters and "Speaking Out" contributions that have appeared in other publications previously are printed only as space allows. GCN reserves the right to edit letters and "Speaking Out" contributions for length and clarity, in consultation with the author. Please include your name, address, and daytime phone number with your letter or article so that we can contact you to verify edits.

All letters and "Speaking Out" contributions must be TYPED and DOUBLE-SPACED. Letters can be NO LONGER THAN TWO PAGES. "Speaking Out" contributions can be NO LONGER THAN FOUR PAGES and require a short (one to two sentence) biographical note about the author for inclusion at the end of the article.

To ensure a a diverse representation of perspectives on the letters pages, "Speaking Out" contributions from authors who have had other "Speaking Outs" printed in GCN recently may be temporarily postponed.

The opinions expressed in "Speaking Out" contributions are those of the author and are not intended to represent the views of the GCN staff, Board or membership.

Terrorist threats in Kentucky

By Kate Black

Something ugly is going on in Lexington, Kentucky and we want to talk about it. Members of the women's and lesbian community, Black and white, are being threatened and terrorized. We believe that as more of us are informed of this attack on our community, the more empowered we will be to resist these threats. What is happening here may be part of a larger story: recent incidents of FBI harassment of activists and state repression especially during and since the Gulf War. However, what is happening here is definitely part of an older, persistent story: racist attacks on Black women and the use of racism and misogyny to scare and intimidate, to keep Black and white women from doing any political or cultural work together.

The story begins sometime in mid-August when two lesbians received letters which targeted one Black lesbian, whom we'll call "X." These racist letters warned the recipients that they should stay away from X and that the "organization" would "be taking care of [X]." The writer[s] claimed to be part of an unnamed racist hate group and identified themselves as lesbians. The letters were signed "Yours in sisterhood." [emphasis in original]

In early September, organizers—all white women—of "Conspiracy of Voices," a program about political prisoners, scheduled for September 16, began receiving threats. One organizer received two letters in which this same group threatened to stop the event because X was involved in the program. In addition, they threatened X's life. One of these letters stated, "If the reading goes be prepared to say goodbye to [X] right then. We will be there." Another organizer came home to find her front door wide open, yet nothing disturbed in her home. A third organizer found a dead baby possum on her stoop with a note saying, "What next?"

Women in the community organized a security team for the political prisoner pro-

gram, and the event went off as planned. However, a few days later, one of the organizers received a letter providing details that implied members of this racist hate group attended the event but were unable to take action because they were thwarted by the security measures taken. In this letter, racist remarks were also made about a Black woman authorized by the organizers to take photographs of the event.

Within the week after "Conspiracy of Voices," at least five women received hate letters regarding X's participation in a Take Back the Night rally and march, scheduled for September 22. The writer[s] claimed to be white supremacist lesbians who politically align themselves with both political prisoners and violence against women. Here are some excerpts showing this bizarre rationale: "We are taking back our night. She will not speak," and "These are our political prisoner women and they risked their lives for our liberation not [Black lesbians]."

Many of us expected, and all of us hoped, that the threats would stop after the Take Back the Night march. Unfortunately, the harassment escalated and moved physically closer to X. X's car was vandalized (tires slashed, license plate removed), used tampons were left on the windshield—all when her car was parked at her home. She began receiving racist letters which were sexually violent and abusive. Letters continued to be sent to others, as well; the writer[s] claimed they were watching X, knew her jogging route, and aimed to get her: "We will take care of her. She is Black. She does not deserve to live. Next time we will follow her and kill her." They also threatened to kill others who support X, warning various people that they were being watched and providing details that made that claim credible. Most of these letters were also extremely sexually violent and abusive.

The threats continue and an expanding circle of people and organizations are the recipi-

ents, and all of the letters still single out X as their primary target, attempting to isolate her with every threat, every action. Most recently, vicious flyers were left on the doors of X's neighbors in her apartment complex.

Women in our community have had very different responses to this horrible situation. We have speculated, we have strategized, we have ignored, we have denied, we have acted. Some of us don't know whether to take the information in the letters at face value. Or whether to assume this harassment has simply been designed by a group (like the FBI or the police or some combination of the two) hoping to scare us, to divide us racially, to stop us from organizing, to keep us from talking to each other. In other words, are the threats coming from a real white supremacist organization or from people wanting us to think that there is such a group? Or is it the work of a deranged individual? Some of the information in the letters would be difficult to obtain without the writer being among us or without some very sophisticated snooping and surveillance. It does seem, however, that whoever is writing the letters has direct access to the lesbian community.

Whoever it is and regardless of their actual purpose, the actions and letters are racist and misogynist and terroristic. Their aim is to totally isolate X and to make us all paranoid, scared, inactive and quiet.

We are a group of women, some of us the direct recipients of these threats, some of us not, Black and white, lesbian and straight, who refuse to be silent about such hate directed at *all of us*. We must not be afraid to speak out against racism just like we must not be afraid to combat homophobia. Oppression is oppression wherever and however it rears its ugly head. Silence is complicity.

Kate Black lives in Lexington, Ky.

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Obituaries

Michael Ryan

SAN FRANCISCO—Michael Ryan, a well known San Francisco AIDS activist, died from complications of the disease on Oct. 3, 1991, one day after his 40th birthday. He died peacefully in his sleep at his Haight-Ashbury apartment, in the loving embrace of his mother, Jean Ryan, and his lover, David Hay.

Even before his diagnosis four years ago, Michael was committed to public AIDS activism. Later, in Oct. 1988, he was arrested during the national ACT UP demonstration at the FDA headquarters in Washington. The photo of his arrest, while wearing a T-shirt emblazoned with the slogan PERSON LIVING WITH AIDS, was picked up by UPI and carried by newspapers across the country, including the front page of the *San Francisco Examiner*. Later he was among those who stormed the stage of the Fifth International AIDS Conference in Montreal, personally confronting Brian Mulroney, the Prime Minister of Canada.

In response to those at the time who criticized the new militancy of groups like ACT UP, Michael proclaimed, "Acting up is keeping me alive!" His last media appearance as an AIDS activist occurred after his death in a video segment for the PBS NOVA series, filmed two years before while he was a patient at Beth Israel Hospital in Boston and broadcast Oct. 9.

Michael's AIDS activism came naturally to him, for he had a long history of compassionate commitment to issues of social justice, beginning with the anti-war movement during the Vietnam War. Believing in the power of non-violent civil disobedience, he was arrested many times from the '70s to the early '90s in five states and the District of Columbia. He participated in demonstrations for anti-racism, better health care and nuclear disarmament, including the cross-country Great Peace March of 1986.

A native of Long Island, Michael received a B.A. degree from Western New England College in 1973 and an M.A. in counseling from Springfield College in 1975. He moved to San Francisco in 1977, often spending his summers in his beloved Provincetown, Mass., (where he distributed *Gay Community News*). After his diagnosis in 1987 he was blessed with the conscientious care-giving of his many personal friends and the outstanding medical expertise of his physician, Steven Mehalko.

Although motivated by a strong social conscience, Michael also had a playful sense of humor and a wonderful capacity for enjoying life, including his favorite hobby, body-surfing for hours on end on the waves of Hawaiian beaches. Typical of both his humor and his zest for life, he wished his epitaph to be, "AIDS activist and body-surfer."

A memorial for Michael was scheduled for Oct. 12, in the Fuchsia Dell of Golden Gate Park (just east of the Conservatory of Flowers), followed by a gathering at his Haight-Ashbury apartment. Donations in his memory may be made to the San Francisco AIDS Foundation or to ACT UP.

For further information, contact David Hay, 604 Ashbury St., San Francisco, CA, Tel: (415) 255-0809.

—David Hay

Joseph Papp

NEW YORK—With the death of Joseph Papp on Oct. 31, at the age of 70, New York and the entire theater world have lost a unique impresario.

In the 1950s Papp won the right to produce free Shakespeare in Central Park over the objections of the powerful politician Robert Moses, thus beginning a tradition of populist theater that he continued for over three decades.

Operating just outside the pressures of the Broadway machine, Papp championed progressive issues and playwrights as well as "non-traditional" multi-racial casting. At his Public Theater he produced plays by male and female African-American, Latino and Asian-American writers.

His occasional smash hit, such as *Hair* and *A Chorus Line*, would transfer to Broadway and provide revenue for other projects. He produced many works with gay themes, including three plays by Larry Kramer, most notably *The Normal Heart*.

An unabashed liberal, Papp lent his name and presence to many gay and progressive organizations. He was a leader in the battle against the challenge to the NEA's independence by Congressional right-wingers.

About a year ago, a smiling picture of Papp and his son Tony appeared in P-FLAG's national newsletter. Papp described his coming to terms with and eventual pride in his son as an openly gay man. Soon there-

after, Tony Papp died of AIDS at the age of 27.

During Joe Papp's physical decline from cancer, there was much speculation about the future of The Public Theater and The New York Shakespeare Festival. Whatever happens to those institutions, his lasting legacy will be the decentralization of theater to an ever-growing regional and non-profit base.

—Tom Wilson Weinberg

Hank Moir

BOSTON—Hank Moir, 41, died quietly of AIDS at his home in Cambridge early on the morning of Nov. 6. Through the hard work and devotion of his family and close friends and the support of many others, Hank was able to live out his greatest wish, to remain home until the end.

Hank was born and grew up in Melrose, Mass. He was a graduate of Bryant and Stratton Junior College. He lived at various times in Naples, Italy, and Sacramento, Calif. He had been a salesperson, waiter, framer, actor, photographer and electronic typesetter. He served in the Navy from 1971-1975.

As a longtime survivor of AIDS, Hank had touched the lives of many. He volunteered at the AIDS Action Committee, on the hotline, for reception and at the speaker's bureau; worked on the NAMES Project and was an active supporter of "From All Walks of Life."

Hank was a wonderful man, stubborn as could be, handsome, private and with a great sense of humor. Hank changed all our lives and he will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by those who called him son, brother, uncle, lover and friend.

He is survived by his parents Henry and Dorothy, his sisters Susan and her lover Harneen, Carol and Barbara, his nieces and nephews, Kenny and his partner Karen, Gail and her partner John, Erin, Katie, Denise, Bobby, T.J. and baby Ryan, born on the day of Hank's passing, and his friends Mark, Lisa, Sue, David, and his aide Cheryl.

A memorial service and reception will be held Nov. 23, 4 p.m., Church of All Nations, 333 Tremont St, corner of Charles St. South, Boston. Donations in Hank's memory may be made to Cambridge Cares About AIDS.

—Susan Moir & Harneen Chernow

Ron Jerrell

LOUISVILLE—Ron Jerrell, long-time AIDS activist and spokesperson for People Living With AIDS both statewide and nationally, died at his parents' home in Western Kentucky Aug. 10, of complications from AIDS. He was 26.

Besides serving as Executive Director of the Kentuckiana People With AIDS Coalition, (KIPWAC), Ron was a past president of the National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA). He was also a member of the Board of Directors of the AIDS Action Council, a national lobbying group; served on the board of the Rural AIDS Network; and was editor of *KIPWAC Update*, KIPWAC's official newspaper.

Ron was diagnosed with HIV in 1986. His friendliness and single-minded courage helped lower the level of fear that pervaded Kentuckiana during the initial phases of the epidemic.

Ron's greatest legacy is the positive outlook he brought to everything he did. In a 1990 interview in *The Letter*, when asked what his life was like thus far, he replied, "Some people are going to think I'm stupid, but I'll say it anyway: I wouldn't want to trade places with anyone."

Ron's family has urged that any expression of sympathy take the form on contributions to KIPWAC, P.O. Box 4037, Owensboro, KY 42302. □

OBITUARY POLICY

GCN encourages anyone whowould like to submit obituaries for publication to do so. We ask that obituaries be typed, double-spaced and limited to 500 words, if possible. Include a photograph, if available. We offer writing assistance upon request. Contact the News Department if you haveany questions at (617) 426-4469.

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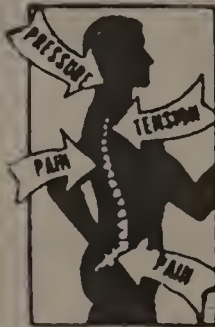
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SIGNIFY OTHERS

LAURA
FROM
THE G

Laura Davis recently stopped in Boston while on a cross-country promotional tour for her latest book, *Allies in Healing: When the Person You Love Was Sexually Abused as a Child* (Harper Collins, New York). Davis previously co-wrote with Ellen Bass the groundbreaking book, *The Courage to Heal*, and then created *The Courage to Heal Workbook*.

While many survivors of childhood sexual abuse have found her work invaluable, Davis discovered that a range of issues was raised for the relationship partners of those who were trying to heal. In the following interview, Davis discusses what brought her to create *Allies in Healing* and to focus on this facet of healing from childhood sexual abuse.

Jennifer Wofford: I found your new book, *Allies in Healing*, powerful and important because it is one of the first books addressing the issues of partners of survivors of childhood sexual abuse. Could you talk about why you wrote it and some of the book's highlights?

Laura Davis: I decided to write *Allies in Healing* because I was doing a lot of workshops with survivors. They kept coming in and saying, "My partner/my lover/my husband is really confused about all this, and is really having a hard time. I don't know what to tell him or what to tell her Why don't you do something for partners?" So I did.

I set up a workshop for partners several years ago. The response and the experience were very powerful because I really saw how neglected and confused this particular group of people was. They were in this situation that they didn't understand: they were in love with someone who was often suddenly dealing with this new thing in their lives and it was throwing their relationship into upheaval. Most of the time I found that the partner—although they might have been frustrated, angry and confused—genuinely wanted to be supportive. But they didn't have a clue about what to do and about what this means for their lives, or how to take care of themselves.

So I continued to do workshops for partners, and although I led them in exercises and talked to them and answered questions, the crux of the workshop for partners has always been giving them a forum to speak to each other. The power of partners talking with each other was profound. After doing those workshops for several years, I decided that I might as well put something down on paper that people who couldn't come to workshops could use. So, that's how the book came about.

The format of the book is questions-and-answers, which is very much what I use in the workshops. All of the questions are real people's questions and experiences, not some kind of psychological conglomerate of a person. I think that the main point of *Allies in Healing* is really in the title, which is that for a couple to make it through the process of one or both healing from child sexual abuse, they really have to work together.

If a partner is standing on the sideline tapping his foot, waiting for it to be over, then that relationship probably isn't going to make it. If the partners are really willing to roll up their own sleeves, look at their own histories and deal with their own issues, those are the couples who really are able to work together, and get through this, and come to a place where they have a much stronger bond.

The other thing that's very important—that I try to say repeatedly in the book—is that a lot of survivors wish their partners would just be 100 percent supportive. They want their partners to put all their feelings and needs aside and just hold them and be there and not expect anything back. I wanted that desperately when I was first beginning my own healing. But I didn't set out to write a co-dependency manual. I didn't want to write a book that says, "This is how to be perfectly supportive to a survivor." That's not what it's about.

It's critical for partners to balance their own needs with the needs of the survivor. When you're with someone who is in a lot of crisis, it's natural to try to put your own needs on hold, but that usually ends up in a disaster. What usually happens is the partner gets burned out, feels resentful and ultimately leaves the relationship. When you're a partner, it's important to be compassionate, to listen to the survivor, to care about what the survivor is going through, but not at the exclusion of your own life and your own

needs.

Partners really need to look at their relationship and figure out a way to get their needs met and decide whether they can stay through the long haul. A partner has to express what he or she is going through. I don't think survivors can really take the full brunt of the frustrations a partner feels, but maybe the survivor could say, "I know this is really hard for you, I'm really sorry. I really look forward to the time when our relationship can be more mutual." Even that goes quite a long way. Survivors need to know that there's someone else who has feelings, too, and maybe they could give a little more than they think they can, push themselves just a little to give five percent of the attention back.

I was in a relationship when I was first remembering, and I desperately wanted to be able to have what it would have taken to maintain my relationship. I kept trying but I failed, over and over again, because I just didn't have the concentration or attention for someone else. Ultimately my lover left, saying she just couldn't take it anymore, and I was devastated. But I also realized that I sort of was able to fall apart in peace. I was able to go through the process without the strain of trying to keep the relationship together. I really was not capable of a relationship, and it wasn't until a couple of years ago that I was capable of really having something to offer that was reciprocal. I completely support survivors who are not in relationships, who are not choosing to be with someone, who are longing for a relationship but are not capable of having one. I was in that position myself for a number of years.

I think the kind of issues raised in this book that deal with intimacy and trust and sexuality are things that you don't deal with when you're first being bombarded with memories, or you're first realizing the impact of this on your life.

I definitely read in your book the message that survivors need to give their partners attention. It seemed to me that *Allies in Healing* had a different tone to it than *The Courage to Heal*, which was very, very supportive of survivors and gave the message that survivors did everything they possibly could to survive, and don't have to feel shameful about their past or feel that their current needs are too demanding. In a way, *Allies in Healing* sounded much tougher, and seemed much less gentle. The message to partners is that you have to take care of yourself and that survivors have to give their partners time and energy even when they don't feel like it. What do you think of that interpretation?

(Laughs) It's interesting that you say that. I thought survivors would have a harder time with the book than they have so far. That's the reason I put the little warning in the beginning, that basically says to survivors, "This may not be easy for you to read because it's not about being perfectly supportive of you; there are partners in the book who are angry and upset; they talk about wanting to leave their relationship. Try to think of this as an opportunity to put yourself in your partners' shoes."

Most of the survivors who have called me or talked to me actually said that they found it refreshing to step out of their own self-absorption and find out what it's like for the partner they're involved with. One of my favorite couples in the book, Scott and Jim, have this fight at one point where Jim says to Scott, "You have to do what I say because I'm a survivor!" And then Scott turns around and says, "Well, you have to do what I say because I was abused too!" Then they have this screaming fight about who had it worse and therefore who should have control. Then

they realize the difference is that they're not victims anymore, they're both survivors. I think to successfully have a relationship that can be very supportive, there's a kind of stepping out from yourself.

The way that I'd hope this book gets used is that a member of a couple would read the book and leave it by the side of the bed with a bookmark, saying, "I really want you to read this section." It would be an opening to talk about issues that are very difficult. I hope it's not used like, "Well, on page 42 she said you better let me talk to my friends!" **(Laughs)**

My favorite story so far is about a straight couple, and she's the kind of survivor who just devours books about sexual abuse and healing. So she came home with this book, and her husband said, "Hey, I get to read this one first," and he takes it. I really like that because he felt entitled to this book; it wasn't like the support groups were for *her*, the books were for *her*, everything was for her and he was being left out. This book was for him.

It seems to me that in the lesbian community there's more talk about abuse and healing, and I don't know if that's because a lot of women who were abused as children choose not to be in relationships with men. Do you think that lesbians are more vocal about it? It seems that in our community, so many gay men and lesbians talk about being from dysfunctional families.

Abuse is widespread in any community. My workshops are very diverse. I choose to work in mainstream settings, and they're abused out there, too. I think, however, there are certain reasons why lesbians—more so than gay men—are very visible as survivors.

One reason is that a majority of women are abused by men, and lesbians have less need to protect men. A lot of times—and this is true for gay men and lesbians—they've already made a break with their families over the issues of coming out and therefore have less need to protect their family. If there was abuse in the family, they may be more willing to come forward with it. And I think there's more support in the lesbian community. Women tend to be more encouraged in this society to look at their feelings, to admit that they're in pain, to say that they've been victimized.

There's less acceptance for survivors in the gay male community than in the lesbian community. There's more criticism; it's a less welcoming environment. That is beginning to change. I think many men are sexually abused, but I think we have higher numbers of women survivors, and when there's a couple made up of two women, the chances are higher that one or both has been abused.

But I don't think that means more lesbians have been abused than heterosexual women, or that abuse turns people into homosexuals. That's garbage. I've talked to lesbians who *do* feel like they are lesbians because they were abused and they made a conscious choice not to be with men, but I think that's the minority. I think for most of us, our sexual orientation comes from a different place, it's about who we're drawn to love.

I'd like to add one thing that I feel is a pretty controversial thing to say, but I feel that *Gay Community News* is the place to say it. When I do workshops for partners, the bulk of the population is usually straight men and lesbians. What I have found invariably is that the straight men have a hell of a lot more commitment in their relationships than the lesbians do. There are a lot of lesbians who are committed and hang in for the long haul. But as a general rule, it's the straight men who are staying in through the really difficult times and the lesbians who are leaving.

ICANT

DAVIS EXPLORES A DIFFERENT FACET OF HEALING CHILDHOOD SEXUAL ABUSE: PARTNERS' ISSUES. AN INTERVIEW.

I see a lot less stability in the relationships of gay men and lesbians than in straight couples. Of course, there's all the support that straight people have in staying together, but I think it's more than that. I think that in the lesbian and gay community we really give the message that when things are hard, you just find someone else. As a community we don't really support long-term commitments. I wouldn't blame this all on homophobia, some of it is the mores of our own subculture, which really lean towards being gratified in the present. I've seen more patience, more persistence, more willingness to work on things in straight couples.

Have you, in workshops or therapy work seen a lot of tension arise when a

partner who's in the process of working through issues with a survivor realizes or discovers that they've also been sexually abused as children? How would that compound a relationship? Have you seen that happen a lot?

That happens a lot. Most partners have something in their history. If it's not sexual abuse, then it might be physical abuse, it might be emotional, it might be alcohol in the family, it might be that they were neglected or terribly humiliated as a child. It's rare for me to meet a partner who came from a terrific family and a very strong background who really has no issues. It does happen and it's very fortunate, but I think the bulk of partners have their own histories.

When the couple is two people who've been sexually abused, a lot of times how that turns out depends upon where each is in their healing. Let's say you have a lesbian couple, and one woman has been dealing with the abuse for some time and really gotten to the stage where she feels pretty resolved about it. And then she gets involved with someone who starts having memories. On the one hand, she might feel supportive because she's been through it. On the other hand, she might feel like, "I've done this already, I don't want to do this again. I do not want to go through another four or five years of this. I'm getting out of here." Or she might feel anywhere in the middle. When you have two people who are in the throes of it at the same time, it can be very difficult.

I really recommend for any couple dealing with abuse to get some outside support, to

help keep the past relationships separate from their relationship. When you're dealing with two survivors in a relationship, I think they need to get their primary support around the sexual abuse outside of the relationship; so that the focus of their relationship is not two battered people trying to become whole. Their relationship can be some place where they can have a bit of a haven with each other, or a little bit of humor with each other, or a break

in the world there has to be a certain amount of self-awareness. I think that healing yourself and dealing with your own pain and the things that keep you from moving forward in your life is a step that's very crucial. But it's one step. Another step is taking that healing that you've attained and giving something back. For survivors it's often their anger that motivates them to be political, and sometimes that's a stage too.

A lot of times the pattern I've seen is survivors really focus on their own healing and then they get to a point where they want to really do something in the world. Maybe they get involved in a survivors' art project, or they produce a play, or they do some lobbying to change the laws, or they

A lot of partners and survivors, in order to challenge their frustration and anger, have been taking political steps. There's a straight couple in Seattle, and the woman who had been abused decided that she wanted to take her father to court. But in order to take her father to court, the statute of limitations had to be changed. So she and her husband began a campaign of lobbying and changed the statute of limitations in Washington. Then she tried to sue her father, and he ran off to Alaska, so she and her husband followed him there and changed the Alaskan statute of limitations. They've become experts on dealing with the statute of limitations cases all over the country. They're an example of a couple in which the two of them have used that activism as a way to stay connected to each other, rather than turning away from one another.

What do you see as the next steps for the healing or self-help movement?

One thing I've noticed on this tour and in interviews, is that invariably people want to talk about survivors, not partners. This is exactly the dilemma that partners are facing in their lives: that all the attention is focused on the survivors. The partners are always kind of on the back burners. We really need to shift the focus not just on the survivor but also clearly on the partner who is so much affected by it.

I've also recently seen some movement towards a real marriage of self-help and therapeutic models, which is important since I think both have their limitations. Therapy is limited because it's expensive and only certain people have access to it, and self-help is limited because there's not enough structure or safeguards. Ideally we should have access to both.

I also expect to see the kind of diverse resources for survivors to continue and expand, as well as the resources for partners and people who've been ritually abused to start developing. Maybe a couple of years down the line there might be more about working with your family of origin, more moving out just from the survivor to the next circle of people around the survivor, immediate family, family of origin, and out into the community. There need to be support groups for everyone in the family affected by the abuse, and for survivors who are parents to learn parenting skills. There needs to be support for people who are at different stages of healing. There needs to be more acceptance and belief that abuse happens.

What are your next steps? Do you see another book in the works?

Ellen Bass and I are going to write an easy-to-read version of *The Courage to Heal* that will be very short and written at a second or third grade reading level. And it will be very cheap. It would be for women in crisis, women in very stressful situations like battered women's shelters, prisons, or who might be intimidated by the size or intensity of *The Courage to Heal*. We'll make the book much more accessible to a different kind of population. Aside from that, I feel like I have to live more before I can write more. I need to go deeper with my own healing, and further with just living my life before I really know what to write about next. □

Laura Davis' photo by
Elena Seibert

I think in order for people to create change

become a volunteer working with kids who have been abused.

Then they'll get to the point where maybe they'll say, "Hey, I don't want to focus on abuse anymore, I did this healing so I could live my life and that's what I want to do." Everything has its own time.

It's certainly the survivors who are the ones who are going to make the changes that may ultimately stop child sexual abuse. It's not going to be anyone but us. But I think it can be destructive for someone to do that prematurely, when they haven't really resolved some of the things they need on the inside.

I see very political people who don't take care of themselves at all. I don't encourage people to go out and try to change the world too early. I think ultimately, like most movements, you start from a very self-centered point of view. I feel like the whole survivor movement will ultimately have to move out from the individual person and become more political. In the same way we have to deal with not just ourselves but with our significant others, our children, our families, and deal with the way these things affect others' lives, and things like our parenting, our work lives, our relationship lives.

I think the kind of self-knowledge and self-care that's developed through healing is really necessary and critical so that you have the stamina and energy base from which to then work for change.

A lot of creative energy seems to be unleashed, and also a lot of political activity.

INTERVIEW CONDUCTED BY JENNIFER WOFFORD

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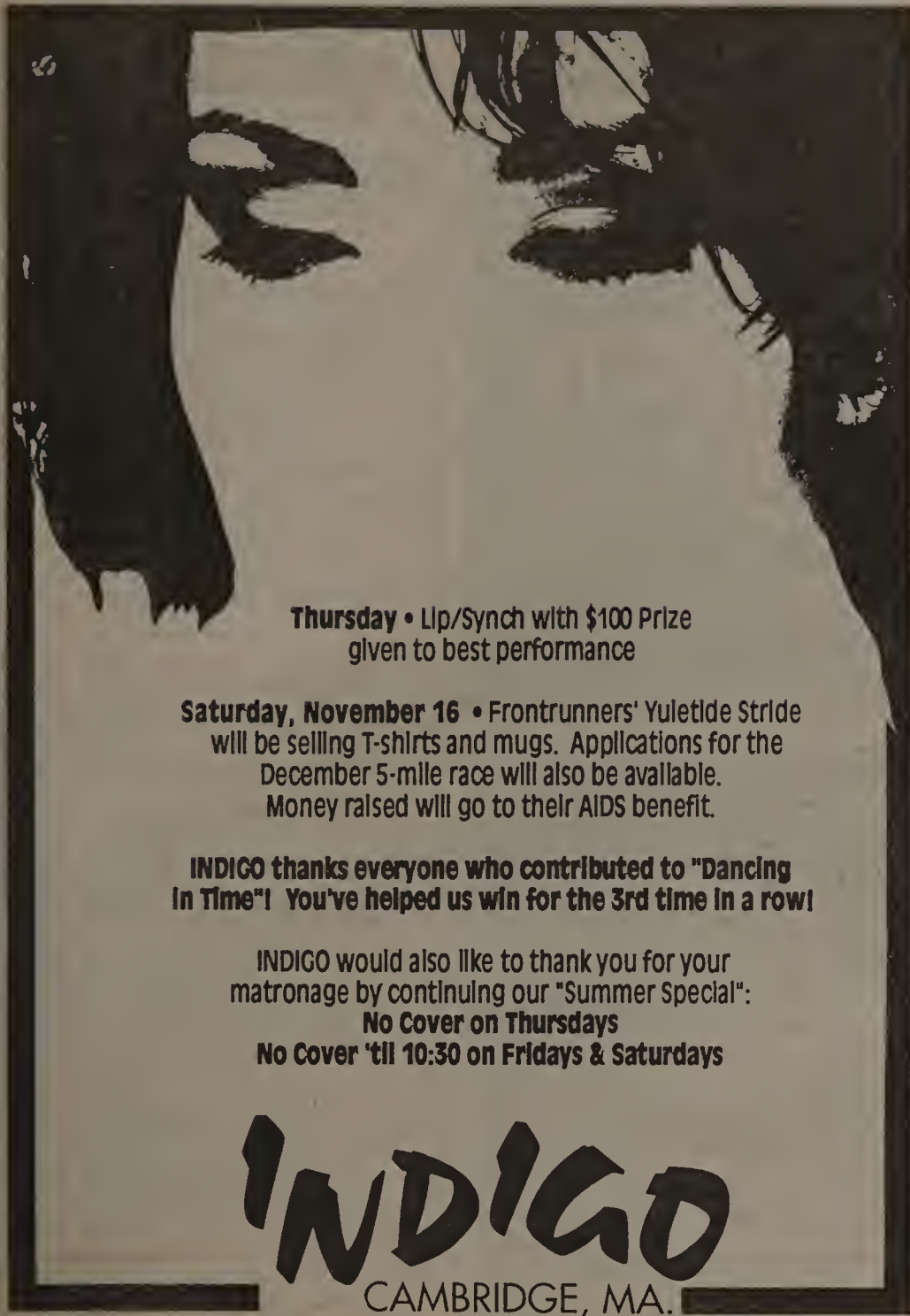
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Thu 4pm-2am, Fri 4pm-2am, Sat 9pm-2am
823 Main Street, Cambridge, MA 617. 497. 7200

NCOD

Continued from page 1

your own.

"This school hopes that you will take advantage of all the educational resources that are available to help answer any questions that you may have. The student library has a large collection of materials to help answer some of your concerns. The Teen Health Center is always there for any student in crisis, and Project 10 East, our own support group for Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual students is here for support and affirmation.

"The CRLS Administrative staff lends its support to the pursuit of all human rights."

Did I die and go to heaven? Pardon the cliché, but after this event happened, all my friends and I couldn't stop wondering what our lives would have been like if we'd gotten support like this during our tender teenage years. Zachary, for instance, is sure he would have found a boyfriend instead of waiting until after graduation. Deluxe found it unfathomable. And I realized I might have known that the reason I wanted to spend my every moment with Katie Tostanaski was that I was in love with her. (Oh, I could kick myself! But she had a boyfriend, anyway...)

Of course, participation in this day was all optional, and occasionally unplanned. Arnie Clayton, who teaches in the bilingual program, ended up in an impromptu conversation with his students, who were shocked to find that there were actually gay people in the school. They asked if they could talk to a live one, so Clayton arranged for Ferreira to come speak to the class at a later date. Then they brainstormed questions (working on their language skills) and had a rather frank discussion with Ferreira. John Dewey, eat your heart out!

You won't laugh, will you, if I tell you that I spent nearly the entire day around the school on the verge of tears? At the top of the steps to the Fundamentals program, where laminated pink triangle posters proclaimed "Support fundamental human rights." On the overpass from the main building to the one near the War Memorial pool, when what seemed like a flood of students and teachers were wearing the stickers. In front of the National Coming Out Day display, by the main office, next to the ones featuring sports trophies, fashion illustrations, and award-winning photographs by a CRLS junior. I was ready to lose it in every one of these places. And later too, in the teachers' room when Ferreira, the event's organizer, told me that one of his very tough students came up to him at the end of class and whispered, "Thank you for being so sensitive and caring."

Ferreira and Jessica, who both worried during the days preceding October 11 that this idea might not fly, were thrilled with its success. So was CRLS's principal, who sung Al's praises, even though in the course of our discussion outside the main office he could never mention the words lesbian or gay.

I was thrilled, too. The day after the events at the school, I was coming out of my apartment and ran into some teenagers from CRLS walking down the street. "I know you, you were in our class," said one of the girls, a member of Ms. Lipkin's ninth grade English. "How'd the day go?" I asked her.

"What do you mean?"

"Well, did you talk about it in any of your other classes?"

"No. But I wore the pink triangle and I told off this kid who said homosexuals don't deserve rights. I got right up in his face and told him that was stupid, everyone deserves rights. That's like saying he doesn't deserve rights because his name starts with 'M.'"

Victory is ours, at least in Cambridge. □

Teacher

Continued from page 1

In schools where administrators offer little or no support, gay and lesbian teachers face even greater pressures and obstacles. A teacher in a suburban high school out to some colleagues and students said that he "deeply understands the argument of how it's vital for the community to have functioning, effective, happy, well-adjusted queer role models."

Teachers in unfriendly environments often fear dismissal (typically in the guise of budget cutbacks or as in the case of Alan Weinger, a Brooklyn public school teacher who was allegedly fired in February 1990 for being gay) harassment from colleagues as well as students, and classroom disruption. Though not "completely out" this teacher has been a resource to students in need, including a female student who came out to him and asked for advice.

Generally, the response to teachers' coming out has been positive, especially from students. Jennings noted that students tend to know who is gay, and that ultimately they have greater respect and admiration for those

who are out. He also said students "read silence as complicity with homophobia," and that silence sends a damning message to gay and lesbian students. Lipkin and the suburban teacher were explicitly harassed by homophobic colleagues rather than students, and in each case the administration had to be prodded to take action, if any.

Lipkin said that gay and lesbian teachers cannot wait for progressive administrators to take the lead. He suggested teachers search out sympathetic colleagues and parents to use as a support group when coming out. Jennings, too, noted that it's up to individual teachers to take those first steps toward creating a positive and nurturing environment for gay and lesbian youth. □

ROTC

Continued from page 3

done by universities." Many issues of homophobia on campus are difficult to specify, and thus to combat. The clear case of anti-gay discrimination by the ROTC "makes it a sounding board for addressing the heterosexual and homophobic problems of the university and the larger society."

Ultimately, many activists see campus activism as the best hope to reverse the DoD anti-gay policy. "Over 70 percent of officers in the Army are ROTC graduates," said de Jesus. "If it comes between losing ROTC and allowing gay men and lesbians soldiers, I think the military brass will opt for the latter."

—filed from Boston

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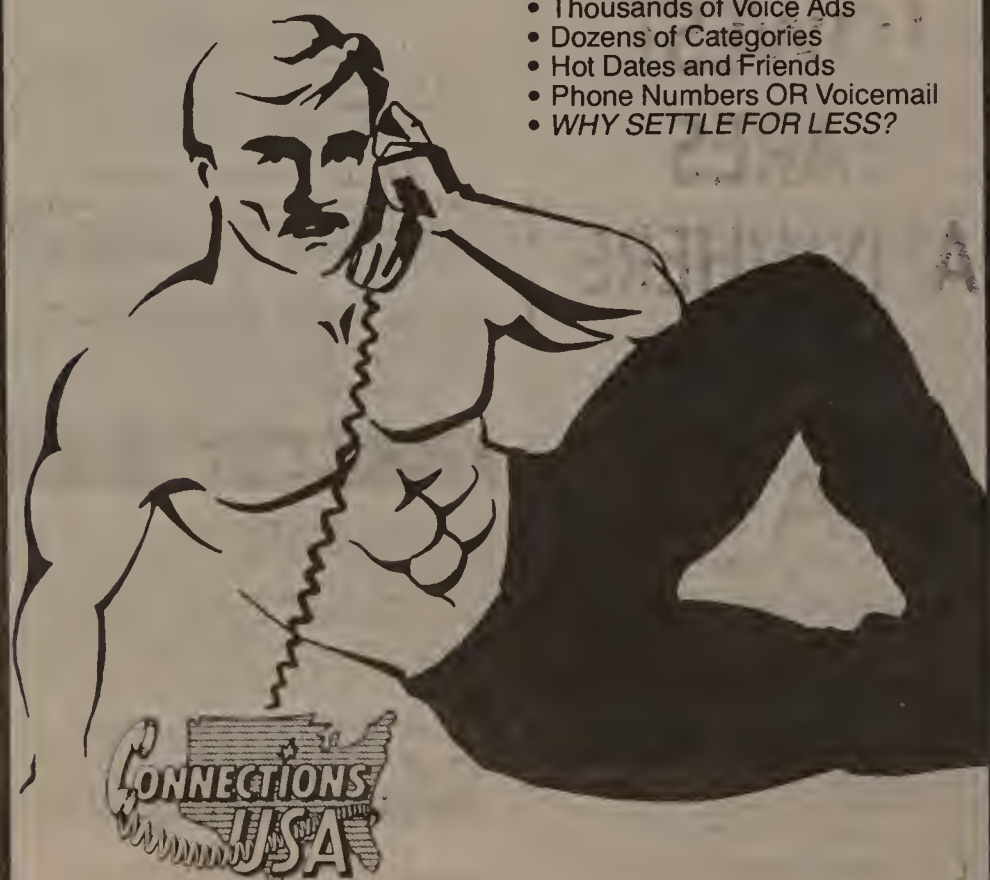
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PERSONALS

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Replies to *GCN* Boxes should be addressed to *GCN* Box#, *Gay Community News*, 62 Berkeley St., Boston, MA 02116. This applies to *GCN* Boxes only, not to P.O. Boxes. Mail may be addressed to *GCN* boxes for weeks after the issue in which it appears. Check carefully to be sure you have the correct box number!

ALTERNATIVE LIFESTYLES

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IS THIS THE RIGHT PLACE

for a GWM, 72, living on the southeast coast, well-educated, politically left, still clicking, works part time, owns his own home, to find himself a mate? If you're venturesome, your letter will get one from me. *GCN* Box 135 (23)

Gay man—kind, honest, witty, *out*—looking for same for monogamous relationship. I'm 31 and spend lots of time swimming, reading, writing, going to museums, listening to music—especially Beethoven, Bartók, Coltrane and contemporary experimentalists. I'm a vegetarian, my politics to the left, and I'm active in the gay and lesbian community. To me, the only important part of your ethnicity and religion is that you're proud of them. Idiosyncrasies are highly encouraged. Your response will surely beget mine. *GCN* Box 901.

MADE IN GERMANY

German GM, new in town, seeks real friends for talking, listening, movies, dining, fun and other social events. I am 33,6'1", brown hair and moustache. Call 262-1297

We knew Zhang in China '87-'88, a closeted Chinese gay man (government says gays don't exist). Desperately wants to come to U.S., geology gradschool. We are raising money for him. Please help or write. Franny, Friends of Zhang, Box 1601, Brookline, MA 02146 (23)

OINK, OINK, OINK

GM sex pig has little time but lots of ideas. Morning, afternoon or early evening quickies in Boston are a definite possibility. What are your likes? Photo/Phone to *GCN* Box 601.

I'M A SLUT

Let me lick your hairy forearms while you beat your meat and spunk off in my face. *GCN* Box 358.

LOS ANGELES

GWF, 34, intelligent, attractive, hard-working professional w/integrity and sense of humor seeks similar. I enjoy music, camping, the beach, cooking (vegetarian), romantic weekends. Not looking for an instant relationship, but I am open to the various possibilities that may develop. Non drug/alcohol abusers. P.O. Box 411361, Eagle Rock, CA 90041. (20)

THWACK, THWACK, THWACK

Feel the gavel pound the auction block at the *GCN* benefit, Friday, Nov. 22 at Club Cabaret. 6 pm. Info: (617) 426-4469.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

VIDEO FESTIVAL TALENT AUDITIONS

Women performers representing many cultures needed for 8th Annual International Women's Day Video Festival. Auditions will be held Saturday, Nov. 23 from 11 - 5 pm and Saturday, Dec. 7 from noon- 6 pm. Call for location. Sharon Gonsalves (617) 625-8087 or Tamsin Orion (617) 524-1874. (18)

Radio/Cable for/about us. Send \$1 & SASE for program list to John Zeh, 1455 Chapin St. NW, Washington, DC 20009-4510

VOLUNTEERS

OUTWRITE '92 IN BOSTON

OutWrite '92 Planning Committee seeks eager beavers and diligent demo homos to serve on conference working groups. OutWrite '92, the national lesbian and gay writer's conference, will be here March 20-22, 1992 in Boston and will be co-sponsored by *OutLook* and *Gay Community News*. Call Sue at 426-4469.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Arts Group is open to most of the women living at MCI Framingham. An orientation is required for entrance into the prison. MCI Framingham is a high security state prison. The group meets Monday evening from 7:00 - 9:00 pm. Volunteers are responsible for nearly all programs in the prison system beyond the inmates most basic routine of incarceration. Your time commitment and role in the group is completely up to you. For more info call Dunya at 547-6429 or Laura at 720-4012.

SERVICES

The Friendship Club is designed to provide other physically challenged gay people, who are stuck indoors, with some outside stimulation. Write D.G. Barnet Yocht, 3287 Gillespie St., Sacramento, Calif. 95838. (916) 921-1413. (21)

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HELP WANTED

DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

National social change foundation seeks highly motivated individual to coordinate all aspects of fundraising. Needs experience with individual donors, particularly major gift solicitation, excellent writing skills, and management experience. Competitive salary, benefits. Women, people of color, gay men and lesbians encouraged to apply. Deadline: December 1, 1991. Starting date flexible. For job description, or to apply, write: Funding Exchange, 666 Broadway, #500, New York, NY 10012. (18)

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

3/5 time. Educational advocacy org. seeks Administrative Assistant to work on national AIDS/HIV education project. Assist Director with administration, provide clerical support. Detail-oriented person with word-processing who can work independently and as part of a team. Knowledge of AIDS issues and computers. Spanish desirable. \$14,000. Benefits, generous vacation. Resumes by November 18 to National Coalition of Advocates for Students, 100 Boylston Street, Suite 737, Boston MA 02116. Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer (18)

HANDYPERSON

Experienced person to perform general building maintenance, including light carpentry and painting. Approx. 10 hrs/wk. Call David at 267-0900 x228. (18)

TRAINING COORDINATOR

Training Coordinator-work within a staff team of four to provide training and training support to public housing tenant organizations, CBPH Board and staff. Identify training needs, develop training programs and resources, provide information and referral for training requests. \$20,750 to start plus good benefits. Apply: Committee for Boston Public Housing, 24 Bellflower St. #215, Dorchester, Ma., 02125. 282-0431. Minorities, BHA tenants and others encouraged to apply. (19)

FOR SALE

In Charles Town. 3 rental units. Superb Neighborhood. Excellent parking. Convenient to public trans. \$215,000. Call 241-5556. (14)

FOR SALE BY OWNER

Jamaica Plain, 2 Fam Phil. style w/barn, lg yd. Sunny, grt poten. Must see! 68 Rossmore Rd. Reduced \$299,900 524-5448. (17)

MOUTH FULL

T-shirt says it all. Size M-L-XL. Only \$14.95. Order by December 2 for Guaranteed Christmas delivery. Check or M/O. Bizall 1128 P.V. Rd. #205 Dept-11 Cleveland, Ohio 44134-6711. (18)

EXCLUSIVELY FOR INMATES

Everything from TV's to sneaks and socks wholesale prices, Free brochure. Inside Shopper, 219P Berlin Road, Suite 185, Cherry Hill, NJ 08034 (27)

HELP! My collection of 128 GM mags must go! Desperately need to pay bills! Original cover price, \$1050; need \$300 or best offer! Serious only. (603) 424-9079. (19)

WANTED

DICTIONARIES

We need them for the prisoner project in a BIG way. If you come across a lot of cheap dictionaries and want to send them our way, please do. They are invaluable to prisoners. They can be dropped off at the Red Bookstore in JP or at *GCN*. Please call 426-4469 if you have any questions.

VACATIONS

LESBIAN PARADISE

Spend long, lazy days by the pool, cool nights by a crackling fire or in our hot tub. With 100 mountain acres, hiking trails, yummy breakfasts, peace & privacy, we're your perfect vacation choice! Golf, tennis, antiquing, summer theater nearby. Spectacular fall colors! HIGHLANDS INN, Box 118G, Bethlehem NH 03574. (603) 869-3978. Grace, Innkeeper. (v.19,i.16)

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FULL BODY

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☐ APARTMENTS

☐ SUMMER RENTALS

☐ MESSAGE

☐ FOR SALE

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Deadline for Classifieds is Friday at 3 p.m. for the next Friday's edition. All ads must be prepaid. No ads accepted over the telephone. Please clip and return this ad form to *GCN Classifieds*, 62 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA. 02116

Classifieds

ROOMMATES

TRY GCN'S GUARANTEED ROOMMATE AD

All roommate and housemate ads that are prepaid for two weeks we will run until you find a roommate.

Ads are *not* automatically renewed. You must call in every additional week you want the ad to run. Phone calls for renewals will be accepted on Fridays until 3 pm. 426-4469.

VIOLATE OUR SPACE

A coupla' dykes sitting around looking for a third. We are vegetarian, easygoing and even though we are lesbians, we have cats. Our J.P. apt is sunny, spacious, close to T and bike path. We're political, independent and gabby. Rent is an astoundingly low \$216+. Call 524-2952.

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MELROSE: Handsome mahogany furnished room in large, updated, fine Victorian home. Central air, washer/dryer, offstreet parking, cable, deck, gardens, and many extras. Enjoy the quiet, security, spaciousness of the suburbs while only 17 minutes to downtown Boston from convenient T stop. Nonsmoking male. \$395 including utilities. 665-6082 (10)

BROCKTON AREA

Professional GM seeks roommate to share 2-bedroom home. New kitchen, W/W, A/C, DW, W/D, security deposit and references. (508) 238-9753 (15)

QUEER CAMBRIDGEPORT COOP

We're looking for wimmin, women or girls for mixed dyke/fag home. Our fabulously beautiful longstanding co-op is conveniently located in a safe, friendly neighborhood. Five minutes from red line. 864-1466

EAST ARLINGTON—WALK TO T

2 lesbians plus cat seek lesbian 25+ to share our home. Good communication, sense of humor, open to racial diversity. No smoke, drugs, minimum alcohol. Beautiful, spacious apartment \$366+, 643-2426.

BRIGHAM CIRCLE HARVARD MED AREA
2 professional GM seek 3rd to share 3 bedroom. Beautiful, fully rennovated, with hardwood floors, washer/dryer, dishwasher, modern bath, huge eat-in kitchen, large sunny living room, ceiling fans. 2 minute walk to T, shopping, etc. \$350 a month+ in friendly, residential neighborhood. 731-2205. (17)

WALK TO RIVER & RED LINE

GM, SF, SM seek F, 25+ for Cambridgeport semi-coop home. Share warmth, humor, left & feminist politics, food, some meals. W/D, deck, porch, 1 cat, no more please. No smoke. \$305+. Available now. 354-6740. (14)

BIG HOUSE/SEMI-COOP

in Cambridgeport, near T. imagine-your very own big, sunny room and study for the low price of \$286! (only one condition- you must be a responsible/fun LF) 2 LF's with a dog & a cat await your call, evenings at 661-6771. (hrsh)

PONDSIDE J.P.

3 LF's seek 4th for big beautiful apt. Friendly, independent house; porches, w/d, parking. Two rooms of your own wired for private phone. No smokers, no pets. \$365+. Avail. Nov. or Dec. 1. 522-9760 (16)

SOBER ROOMMATE WANTED 12/1

GM 28 and friendly housecat seek L or GM to share spacious apt. on Cambridge/Belmont line. Near bus. 7 min. ride to Harvard Sq. No alcohol/drugs/"trick traffic." I am smoker (cigs. OK). 12-steppers esp. welcome. Call Michael 484-1389 leave msg. \$325 plus 1/2 util. (17)

ALLSTON

4 Queer Ls seeking 2 more to share sober, semi-coop, no hassle household. Near T and bus. 230 and 254/mnth + util. 254-0448 (16)

FUN, FRIENDLY APT IN J.P.

1 LF, 1 BiP seek 1 LF for progressive, semi-coop, veggie apt \$250+ 4 blks from T, 3 blks from Centre St. Lots of commonspace, yard, driveway, sm. porch. We are non-smoke, sober, fun. 522-9351 (10)

2BDR IN NE LYNN

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2LF's seek 3rd for spacious, sunny 3BDR. Yard, porches, laundry, off-street parking, own phone line. No smk/pets \$400 + util. Call 648-0970 or 648-1724. (18)

MELVILLE PARK

2LF seek 4th. GM, seek 1 more. LR, Dr sunrm, porch, mega yard, BIG bedrm. Near T. \$325+. 825-2722 (14)

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2 LF's and dog seek L to share friendly, comfortable house with yard in Somerville. 5 min. walk to Davis Sq and T. No smoke, drugs, min. alcohol. \$323 +, 776-6612 (18)

WALK TO RIVER & RED LINE

GM, SF, SM seek F, 25+ for Cambridgeport semi-coop home. Share warmth, humor, left & feminist politics, food, some meals. W/D, deck, porch, 1 cat, no more please. No smoke. \$305+. 354-0748.

PONDSIDE JP

3 LF's seek 4th for independent household. Large, beautiful apt. with 2 rooms of your own plus common space. 2 bthrms, wash/dryer. Drug, alcohol, smoke free. No more cats. Avail. Jan 1st (or before) \$350+ 524-8040 or 522-4720. (19)

SOMERVILLE, GM seeks M/F to share chic large, mod. 2 br. apt. Big closets, EZ parking, big E-i-k, w/DW. \$350/mo. Call Paul: 628-7618 (H) or 935-4900 (w). (19)

DORCHESTER, Shawmut, 2 min. to T. Large kitchen + living room, front + back porches. 1 room \$250+ util. 2 room suite \$350+ util. Call Dave 825-8234. (19)

DORCHESTER

APARTMENTS

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CALL 828-5416

Must see! Mattapan 3-fam. apartments. Pets possible. 2 BR. \$650 heat included. (18)

SPACIOUS WATERTOWN APT

Beautiful 2 bdr. in 2-family gay owned house; large LR w/frpice; DR, big kitchen, screen porch, yard/garden, Nov 20, \$825 924-6204 (18)

BEAUTIFUL NEWLY RENOVATED 2BR APT IN JP

Two family house on safe, quiet, dead-end street. Near pond, Arboretum and T. HW floors, LR/DR, eat-in kitchen, W/D, cozy backyard. Lesbian owned + occupied. Pets negotiable. No smokers, please. \$800 + utils. Avail Dec. 1, 522-2251. (20)

WOONSOCKET, RI

Large 2 bedroom owner's apartment. 1st floor, wall to wall, custom kitchen with all appliances, extraordinary bathroom, dining, very large parlor, den/office with walk-in closet, garage with in-house opener, heat + hot water included, quiet neighborhood. \$650/month (401) 766-9617. (18)

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PUBLICATIONS

BROOMSTICK

A quarterly national feminist political journal by, for and about women over forty, 3543 18th st. #3, San Francisco, CA 94110. Yearly subscriptions: U.S. \$15, Canada \$20 (U.S. funds). Overseas and Institutions \$25. Sample copy \$5. Free to incarcerated women over forty. A magazine of midlife and long-living women's personal experiences and positive images of ourselves and our struggles; a network of over-forty women who are committed to opposing agism and sexism and to developing our understanding of our lives.

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RYAN'S VISION QUARTERLY

Is a new publication for citizens & prisoners with AIDS. We report on treatments, news, activism, statistics etc. in the prison system. \$20 annually to: Ryan's Vision, Suite 6F, 277 Prospect Ave, Hackensack, NJ, 07601. Free to Prisoners. (19)

PRISONERS SEEKING FRIENDS

Just a reminder to prisoners who send in ads—we are about a month backed up. I know the wait is long—sorry for the delay!—Rebecca

24 year old, dominant, spontaneous, looking to correspond with hopes of building a relationship. Into motorcycles, sailing, poetry, travel, quiet times at home and honesty. E. Joe Bisson, #7218477, Oregon State Penitentiary, 2605 State St., Salem, OR, 97310-0505

Sweet, blond haired blue eyed gay male. I'm very clean and most of the time shy. Requests correspondence and possible relationship. Robert Phelps, #5795843, 2605 State Street, Salem, OR 97310-0505

Been in since '84, out very soon. Into the fine arts, Inner Harbor, camping, sailing and motorcycles. Non-smoker, no drugs, light drinker. Seeking friend in Balto. James c/o 2405 Beach Ave., Balto, MD 21221

26 year old, part Black and part Mexican. Loves meeting people. Will answer all letters. Thomas Pesina. #131596, P.O. Box 97, McAlester, OK, 74502-0097

I would like to have communication with someone gay who would like to be my pen pal. I don't have no one to write to. Please. Nicholas Espinoza, D54510, P.O. Box 689 D106, Soledad, Calif. 93399960-0689

I'm a 39 y.o. male who has been locked up for the past 15 yrs. Am looking for someone who would like to be my friend, who I can share the upcoming holidays with. Take a chance on me. William L. Thompson, #053779, Box 747, Cell #N-2-S-10, Florida State Prison, Starke Florida, 32091

41 y.o. Bi male doing "hard time." I've decided to stop fighting loneliness. Wanting to write T.V./T.S. or fem gay males. My interests are varied, but many untried. Write: Robert McGill, #E22724, F.A. G.-228-LOW, Represa, CA, 95671

GM seeking same. Fun, will do anything in bed. Love a good time. Mark Diedrick, #806963A-12, Iowa Men's Reformatory, P.O. Box B, Anamosa, Iowa, 52205-0010

I do not want no money, I am not lazy. I really get into working out and music of any kind. It does not matter what race you are, it is the heart that counts. Joe Jones, # B-062355-FN2B, Tomoka Correctional Institution, 3950 Tiger Bag Road, Daytona Beach, Florida, 32124

Young black male wants to hear from anybody out there to share "hot" mail of childhood or adult sexual romps. NAMBLA members write also. Gay/Bi, 17 to 50, will answer all who write. Kevin Collins, #87A8729, Box 500, Elmira, NY 14902

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE STORY

That's what you get inside every issue of *IN THESE TIMES*. We've built our reputation on addressing the issues the mainstream media ignores, and that's why our unique point of view has been trusted by thousands of readers for fifteen years. Experience the very best in alternative American journalism by ordering a sample copy today. Write: *IN THESE TIMES*, 2040 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL 60647 or subscribe toll free from anywhere in the U.S.: (800) 435-0715. GIVE US A TRY. WE'LL GIVE YOU THE VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDE.

WOMEN'S REVIEW OF BOOKS

monthly review of current feminist writing. Since 1983. Our readers span the U.S., Canada, and abroad. Subscriptions: \$15/U.S., \$18/Canada, \$25/institutions. Free sample on request. THE WOMEN'S REVIEW, Wellesley Women's Research Center, Wellesley, MA 02181.(ex)

LESBIAN CONTRADICTION

A Journal of Irreverent Feminism. Quarterly of commentary, analysis, reviews, cartoons & humor by and for women who agree to disagree—who are still political, but not necessarily correct. Sample \$1.50/sub. \$6 more if/less if. LesCon, 584 Castro, No. 236G, SF, CA 94114. (18.35)

Women Seeking Friends

Barbara Ruth was seriously chemically poisoned on 7/2. She is now homeless. If you have not heard from her in a long time it's cuz your address is in her contaminated house. Write to her at her Novato address, the mail will be forwarded. She wants to hear from her prisoner sisters!

I am 42 years old, with auburn hair, love animals, camping and living in the country. I am a recovering addict and alcoholic and have graduated computer school here. I have 9 months to go. Please write: Dolores Caralluzzo, 19981-044, CCU, 3301 Lustawn St., Lexington, KY 40511-8799

This home girl is lonely, honey. Write to Don Sweet Red Miller, 169775, JC.C.C., 5A-258, P.O. Box 900, Jeff City, MI 65102

I'd like to know someone stable, caring, honest and loyal to share my life with. Drop me a line soon, 'cause I get out Dec. 18, 1991. Gary Cooksey, #86088825 0-2, Indiana Dept. of Correction, P.O. Box 473, Westville, IN, 46391-0473

GWM, 21, been in prison for the last 3 years and hope to be released in the next year. Into music, horses and water sports. Write soon! Kenneth McKenzie, #669538 Unit 29-C, Parchman, MS. 38738

Black male soon to be released looking for bottom. Attractive, hard working. Will respond to all letters. Olen L. Jackson, Route #1, Box 36, Jackson, N.C., 27845

I am a gay man, 21 y.o., who has no family of friends. I like to wrestle, lift weights, and I am told that I am ruggedly handsome. My nickname is Bulldog, Archie H. Mills, #172240, Box 97-OSP, F-3-42, McAlester, OK, 74502

If you can spare a little love, please write: Michael Allen, #209-452, P.O. Box 45699, Lucasville, OH. 45699-0001.

Death row inmate: great personality, very, very lonely. Any correspondence is welcome. Nothing is worse than dying alone! Please write! Richard E. Shere, #116320, Florida State Prison, P.O. Box 747, Starke, Florida 32091

34 y.o. GWM, silver and brown hair. On a 1 to 10 scale, a "9." In for life without parole. James Elegery Jr. #9045537, WSP/5 Unit F-29, P.O. Box 520, Walla Walla, WA. 99362

GWM 26 y.o. Enjoys walks, talks, reading, music and just sharing time with someone special. Will answer all who write. Prefer photo, but not a must! William Arrington, P.O. Box 685, Huntersville, N.C. 28078

GWM, Capricorn. I enjoy theater, the outdoors, beaches, cooking, music, sex of course, and other pleasures that life has to offer. I am very down to earth, easygoing, a little shy at times. Clenny T. Davis, #106038, R-47, Apalachee C.I., P.O. Box 699-W, Sneads, FL, 32460

I am a GWM, and if you're looking for a man who is honest and understanding, look no further. Write Paul Scott Klein, #30918, P.O. Box 1989, Ely, Nevada, 89301

Calendar

22 Friday, Boston ♦ The GCN Autumn Benefit : Auction and Entertainment . Hosted by Steven Tierney. With Kevin Cathcart, Gary Daffin, Sue Hyde, Arline Isaacson, George Nolley, Liz Page and many others. Bid on never before offered items. 6:00-8:30 p.m. At Club Cabaret, 209 Columbus Ave. Entertainment with cabaret star Belle Linda Halpern (r), Jaffee Cohen of Funny Gay Males, Boston Symphony Orchestra musicians and more... \$10. See back page for more details.

Calendar listings must be received by the Monday before the week of the event. Photos encouraged! Listings may also be sent electronically by the Please specify if event is or is not wheelchair accessible and/or sign language interpreted. Please use our format as a guide for listings, including time, date, place, and a contact person. All listings must be typed. Please note that listings are printed only as space allows; we regret that we cannot print every submission.

Phone numbers listed are in the 617 area code, and cities are in Massachusetts, unless otherwise noted.

16 SATURDAY

Boston ♦ 2 In 20 appearing at The Center, 338 Newbury St. 7:00 pm. Suggested donation of \$6.00. Info: 247-2927.

Boston ♦ Prime Timers monthly meeting featuring Attorney Katherine Triantafyllou on "Saving on Estate Taxes." \$1. 2-4 pm. Lindemann Health Center, 25 Stanford St. Info: 262-8685.

Cambridge ♦ Women of Color Film Fest. 13 Applan Way, Longfellow Bldg., Room 100. Through Nov. 17.

Jamalca Plain ♦ Midnight Snack In concert at Crone's Harvest.

Norton ♦ Triboro Triangles sponsors a buffet and dance. \$7.00. RSVP by Nov. 9. P.O.Box 2751, Attleboro Falls, MA 02763. Info: 247-2927.

17 SUNDAY

Boston ♦ Jerry Douglas reads from *Mantaik* at Glad Day. Free. 7 pm. 673 Boylston St. Info: 267-3010.

Brookline ♦ Am Tikva, Boston's community of lesbian and gay Jews, will share coming out stories at 11 am. Light brunch served. Workmen's Circle, 1762 Beacon St. Info: 926-2536.

18 MONDAY

Roxbury ♦ Video and panel discussion of Nelson Mandela's 1991 visit to Cuba. \$3 donation. 7 pm. Roxbury Community College cafeteria, 1234 Columbus Ave. Info: CASA 492-8699.

21 THURSDAY

Boston ♦ Photographic employee exhibition at Gallery One. Free. Through Dec. 20. Reception 6-8 pm. New England School of Photography, 537 Commonwealth Ave. Info: 437-1868.

Boston ♦ "Discussion group" for HIV negative gay and bisexual men on intimacy." Sponsored by AIDS ACTION Committee and Fenway Community Health Center. Free. 7-9 pm. At the Old South Church, 645 Boylston St., 4th floor. Info: 267-0900 ext 287.

Brookline ♦ Benefit for Seton Manor, a residence for PWAs. \$6. \$10. The Tam, 1648 Beacon St. Info: 277-7852.

Jamalca Plain ♦ Betsy Salkind performs her comedy at Crone's Harvest. Donation. 8 pm. 761 Centre St. Info: 983-9530.

22 FRIDAY

Jamalca Plain ♦ Open Mike with Sharon Sue Kleinman at Crone's Harvest. Donation. 7:30 pm. 761 Centre St. Info: 983-9530.

Boston ♦ "An evening for pet owners with HIV." Panel discussion. Sponsored by FCHC's Living Well Series and Boston Living Center. Free. 7-9 pm. Fenway Community Health Center, 7 Haviland St. Info: 267-0900 ext 287.

Boston ♦ Author David Feinberg will sign copies of *Spontaneous Combustion*. Free. 4-6 pm. Glad Day, 673 Boylston St. Info: 267-3010.

23 SATURDAY



Erica Wheeler

Jamalca Plain ♦ Erica Wheeler in concert at Crone's Harvest. Donation. 8 pm. 761 Centre St. Info: 983-9530.

Cambridge ♦ Fred Small in concert with Patricia Shih and ASL interpreter Jody Stener. Benefit for Cultural Survival. \$10 adv., \$12.50 at door. 8 pm.

Paine Hall, Harvard University. Info: (508) 263-6072.

Waltham ♦ Way Out In Waltham (WOW) sponsors potluck dinner and video night for local lesbians, gay men and bisexuals. Info: 893-0742

Holyoke ♦ Art for Life silent auction. Benefit for local AIDS service organizations. \$50 per person, \$85 per couple. 8-12 pm. Holyoke Heritage State Park, 221 Appleton St. Info: (413) 533-2426.

Clinton ♦ The Gay/Lesbian Science Fiction Society. Potluck and Star Trek viewing. 6 pm. Info: (508) 365-5951.

Boston ♦ The Gay/Lesbian Science Fiction Society. Goes to see the newly released *Addams Family* movie. Info: (508) 597-5861.

Boston ♦ The Women Leaders Strategy Session. Hosted by YWCA. \$20 donation. 10 am-4 pm. YWCA Stuart Room, 140 Clarendon St. Info: 536-7940, ext. 109.

Boston ♦ Evening in solidarity with the native struggle. \$4 donation. 7:30 pm. Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury St. Info: All People's Congress 424-1176.

24 SUNDAY

Watertown ♦ Gays and lesbians of Watertown (GLOW) hold 7th Anniversary Tea Dance. All welcome. 3 pm. Info: 395-4664 or 937-6942.

Marblehead ♦ Annual Fall bub sale. Sponsored by North Shore Gay/Lesbian Alliance. 12-5 pm. 90 Green St. Info: (508) 745-3848.

Framingham ♦ "We won't go back!" Massachusetts NOW state conference. \$30 registration. Framingham State College. Info: 876-2420.

Jamalca Plain ♦ Lesbian video presentation of *Sappho Goes to Hollywood*. Donation. 7 pm. Crone's Harvest, 761 Centre St. Info: 983-9530.

Cambridge ♦ Paintings and color sketches by artist Jim Jackson at the Black Forest Cafe, 1759 Mass. Ave. Reception 3-6 pm. Info: 661-6706.

Boston ♦ "How to pursue peace in the Middle East" by Prof. Sherman Telchman. Free. 11 am. Community Church of Boston, 565 Boylston St. Info: 266-6710.

25 MONDAY

Boston ♦ "STD's and HIV in Women: An update on transmission, treatment and research." Sponsored by FCHC, Multicultural AIDS Coalition, Boston Living Center, Latino Health Network and AIDS ACTION Committee. Free. 7-9 pm. FCHC, 7 Haviland St. Info: 267-0900 ext 287.

26 TUESDAY

Boston ♦ Healing service for all affected by AIDS. Co-sponsored by Ecumenical Task Force on AIDS, Inc. 7:30 pm. King's Chapel, School and Tremont Sts. Info: 628-7665.

Danvers ♦ Thanksgiving potluck at the Northshore Unitarian Universalist Church, 323 Locust St. Reservations a must. 7 pm. Info: North Shore Lesbian/Gay Alliance (508) 745-3848.

Boston ♦ Orientation to Buddy Program. 7:30 pm. AIDS ACTION Committee, 131 Clarendon St. Info: 437-6200 ext 450.

29 FRIDAY

Boston ♦ *Only angels have wings*, at the Friday Night Video Series. \$2 donation. 7 pm. Gay and Lesbian Community Center, 338 Newbury St.

World's End ♦ Hike to World's End with the Chiltern Mt. Club. Info: 925-5270.

SATURDAYS

Boston ♦ Frontrunners. Meet at Metropolitan Health Club for 2 to 5-mi. run along Charles. Lockers and showers \$1.00. 10am. Also: Tues. 11:45pm. at MHC; Wed. 6:45pm. at Hatch Shell; Sun. 3:00pm. at Jamalca Pond Boathouse. Info: Sara 524-4025.

Boston ♦ "Two-Steppin' for AIDS" Texas Two-stepping and line dancing for the HIV positive community and their friends. At the Boston Living Center, YWCA, 140 Clarendon St., 7th fl. Third Saturdays, 7:00-12:00pm. Donations go to direct services for people with AIDS. Info: 236-1012.

Cambridge ♦ Single Mothers' Support Group. Free drop-in group with child care, alternate Saturdays. Women's Center. 46 Pleasant St. 11am-12:30 p.m. 354-8807.

Boston ♦ Pink Flamingos. TV/TS of New England. 4 to 6p.m. 338 Newbury St., 2nd fl. 247-2927.

Boston TV ♦ PrideTime—Boston G/L TV. with Cynthia Pape. 7:30 p.m. Boston Neighborhood Network, channels A3 and A8. Also on Cambridge Cable Channel 19, 7 p.m. Tuesdays, and on other systems; check your listings.

Jamalca Plain ♦ Women's Coffeehouse. Musical entertainment, usually. 8 p.m. Crone's Harvest, 761 Centre St. \$5 suggested donation. 983-9530.

Cambridge ♦ A multicultural story hour for children aged 3-8. Sponsored by FCHC and Lesbian Mothers Group. Third Sat. of every month. Info: 267-0900 ext 292.

SUNDAYS

Boston ♦ Boston Alliance of G/L Youth (BAGLY) Drop-In Center. St. John the Evangelist Church, 35



Bowdoin. (800) 42BAGLY.

Boston ♦ Work Issues Support Group. 2 to 4 p.m. G/L Comm. Ctr., 338 Newbury St.

Boston ♦ Boston Strikers Soccer Club. Weekly novice and club scrimmages. All levels. 3 p.m. Info: Erik 423-0929 or Jeff 876-7612.

Cambridge ♦ Lesbian Sports. Magazine Field, Memorial Dr. Spons. by DOB. Softball 4 to 6 p.m.; volleyball 6 p.m. 'I'll dark. \$1. Info: Steph 625-9551.

Boston ♦ Dignity Mass. Liturgy followed by a social hour. St. John the Evangelist Church, 35 Bowdoin St. 5:30 p.m. 536-6518.

Boston ♦ Western Orthodox Church Mass. Arlington St. Church, 351 Boylston St. 227-5794.

Provincetown ♦ Christian Healing Service. 5:30 p.m. 96 Bradford St. (P'Town AIDS Support Grp.) Pot luck dinner to follow. (508) 487-3866.

Boston ♦ Metropolitan Community Church Worship/Fellowship. 131 Cambridge St. (near Gov't Ctr.). 7 p.m. Info: Rev. Tanis 437-0420.

Boston ♦ Narcotics Anonymous. L/GM. The Center, 338 Newbury St. 8 p.m. 247-2927.

Boston ♦ The Gay Dating Show, WUNR 1600AM. 10:30pm-2:30 a.m.

Boston ♦ Different Strokes Swim Team. Coached work-outs for swimmers of all abilities. 10:15. Info: 767-0449 or 282-3110.

MONDAYS

Boston ♦ New Support Group for Recovering Women with HIV/AIDS. Sponsored by Women, Inc. Call Magda or Christine for a screening interview 442-6166.

Boston ♦ Positive Directions. Peer-led support group for HIV+ people. Boston Living Center, 140 Clarendon. 12:25 p.m. 262-3456.

Boston ♦ Chiltern Downhill Skiing Lessons. Monday nights at Nashoba Valley ski area. Info: Jim 843-3966.

Boston ♦ Monday Night Dinners for PWA's and Friends: about 100 people meeting every Monday at AAC for dinner. No reservations required. 6 p.m. AAC, 131 Clarendon St. 437-6200.

Dorchester ♦ Alcoholics Anonymous. First Parish Church, Mtg. Hs. Hill. Beginners 6:30, hardhats 8 p.m.

Boston ♦ Queer Nation meets 1st and 3rd Mondays at new location. Local 26, 62 Berkeley, 3rd Floor. 7:00pm.

Boston ♦ Boston Bisexual Women's Network Coordinating Comm. The Center, 338 Newbury St. 247-2927.

Worcester ♦ AIDS Project Worcester. A support group for family, friends, concerned others dealing with HIV. 305 Shrewsbury St. 7-8:30 p.m. (508) 755-3773.

Boston ♦ Northern Lights Alternatives Monday Night Rap Group. Talk to others living with HIV. 38 Appleton St. 7:30-9 p.m. Info: Ann O'Rourke 694-0964.

Cambridge ♦ Lesbian Rap Group. Topic: 11/18 "Coming out to your parents," 11/25 "What to do with your 'ex' on the holidays." The Women's Center. 46 Pleasant St. 8-10 p.m. 354-8807.

Cable TV ♦ "Between Takes." Often a g/l slant on events. Boston A3 Mondays 9:30 p.m. Cambridge CCTV Thursdays 8:30 p.m. Rhode Island Interconnect A Fridays 8:30 p.m. Other areas: check listings.

TUESDAYS

Providence, RI ♦ ACT UP/Rhode Island. Call for meeting place (401) 461-4191.

Gloucester ♦ Healing Circle / Positively Clean and Sober. Healing circle 6:30 to 8 p.m., open to anyone facing chronic or life-threatening illness. Pos. C&S 8 to 9 p.m., for people living with HIV and dealing with subst. abuse issues. N. Shore AIDS Project, 19 Pleasant St. (508) 283-0101.

Boston ♦ ACT UP/Boston. The Living Center, YWCA, 140 Clarendon St. 7 p.m. 49-ACTUP.

Cambridge ♦ Bisexual Women's Rap. Topic: 11/19 "Lesbians of different cultures," 11/26 "Open rap." The Women's Center. 46 Pleasant St. 7-8:30. 354-8807.

Medford Radio ♦ "We the People"—with feminist Sheila Parks. WMFO 91.5FM. 7-9a.m. Tufts U. radio.

Worcester ♦ Support Group for HIV+ G/B Men and Their Significant Others. Closed meeting. AIDS Project Worcester. 305 Shrewsbury St. 7-8:30 p.m. (508) 755-3773.

Boston ♦ L/G Freedom Trail Band Rehearsals. No audition necessary. Mass College of Art, Longwood and Brookline Ave. 7:15 p.m. 266-0628.

WEDNESDAYS

Boston ♦ Women In the Building Trades will be offering free introductory workshops. 6:00-8:00pm from 10/30-12/4. At 555 Amory St. Call 524-3010 to pre-register or for info.

Cambridge ♦ Job search support group. Cambridge Women's Center. 6:30-8:30 pm. Info: 354-8807.

Boston ♦ Sales Networks Program for G/L Business Owners and Supporters of the Community. 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. The Center, 338 Newbury St., 2nd fl. Registration required: Marc Spencer 262-2400.

Hyde Park ♦ Women's Pick-Up Hockey. MDC Hyde Park Rink (near Dedham). 8 to 9 a.m. Info: Janice 326-1600 x350.

Boston ♦ Boston Alliance of G/L Youth (BAGLY). Open to youth age 22 and under. 35 Bowdoin St. New persons' meeting 6p.m.; women and men meet separately 6:45 to 7:30; general meeting 7:30p.m. (800) 42BAGLY.

Cambridge ♦ Lesbian Al-Anon. Wheelchair accessible. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 6:30 to 8 p.m. 354-8807.

Springfield ♦ Names Project Meeting. New chapter with weekly quilting meetings. All welcome. Frontier. 19 Pearl St. 7 to 10 p.m. (413) 788-7459

Worcester ♦ Supporters of Worcester Area G/L Youth (SWAGLY). Social support grp. for youths 22 and under. 7 to 9 p.m. United Congregational Church, 6 Institute Road. 7 to 9 p.m. (508) 755-0005.

Boston ♦ Bisexual Adult Children of Alcoholics. Mass. General Hospital. 7:30 p.m. Info: Marge 259-1559.

Boston ♦ Positive Directions. Peer-led support group for HIV+ people. Boston Living Center, 140 Clarendon. 7:30 p.m. 262-3456.

Bridgewater ♦ S. Shore G/L Alliance. 7:30 to 9 p.m. Bridgewater Ctr. Primarily a social group of age 25+, but all welcome. Info: Glen 293-5183 or Dave 294-0367.

Worcester ♦ Support Group for HIV+ who are in Substance Abuse Recovery. Closed meeting. AIDS Project Worcester. 305 Shrewsbury St. 7:30 to 9 p.m. (508) 755-3773.

Amherst ♦ Queer Nation meets 6:00-7:00pm at Bangs Community Center, 70 Boltwood Walk. Info: P.O. Box 202, Hadley, MA 01035 or (413) 584-4213.

THURSDAYS

Boston ♦ The Boston Monthly HIV Medical Update. 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:30pm. John Hancock Conference Center, 40 Trinity Place (near Copley green and Back Bay/South End Orange T stations). Info: 262-3456.

Somerville ♦ The Thursday Night Dinner Program offers meals to PWA's HIV+ and friends at the Methodist Church. One block from Davis Square Red Line Station. Info: 666-4130.

Boston ♦ Boston Area Rape Crisis Center drop-in group for women who have been raped. 492-RAPE.

Boston ♦ Names Project Quilting Bee — for the AIDS Memorial Quilt. Sewing supplies and support provided. Boston Living Ctr., 140 Clarendon St. 7th fl. 7 to 9 p.m. Info 451-9003.

Portsmouth, NH ♦ Out and About. A lesbian social and support group. Info: Keryn (603) 749-5852.

Boston ♦ Positive Directions. Peer-led support group for HIV+ people. Boston Living Center, 140 Clarendon. 7:30 p.m. 262-3456.

Provincetown ♦ Positive PWA Coalition Weekly Rap Session. 7:30. 155 Bradford St. Peer led. (508) 487-3998.

Boston ♦ The Group. Discussion and social hour. The Center, 338 Newbury St. 734-2076.

Boston ♦ L/G Ice Hockey Practices and Intersquad Scrimmages. All levels. 9 p.m. Grtr Bos. rink. Info: John 350-6063, Al 522-1408.

Cambridge ♦ GAMIT Study Break. (GAMIT = Gays at MIT.) GAMIT lounge, room 50-306, 142 Memorial Dr.

Boston ♦ Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights general meeting. Third Thurs. of every month. 6:30-8 pm. Lesbian/Gay Community Center, Room 206, 338 Newbury St. Info: 266-2956.

FRIDAYS

Watertown ♦ GLOW: G/L of Watertown. 395-4664.

Boston ♦ GCN Friday Night Stuffing Party. Come stuff the paper, eat pizza, and make new friends. GCN, 62 Berkeley St. 5 p.m. 426-4469.

Boston ♦ Body Electric. Healing w/sensual massage for gay and bisexual men. \$12. 522-9164.

Boston ♦ Positive Directions. Peer-led support group for HIV+ people. Boston Living Center, 140 Clarendon. 7:30 p.m. 262-3456.

Somerville ♦ Swing and C/W Dance for G/L/B. 8 p.m., swing and two-step lessons; 9 p.m. to midnight, dancing. Smoke / alcohol free, juice bar. Air cond. \$5. "On Broadway," 880 Broadway. 623-9532.

Provincetown ♦ Safe Sex Brigade and Anti-L/G/B Violence Campaign. Volunteers meet on steps of P'Town Post Office Friday and Sunday nights at 11:30 p.m. through Labor Day. Info: ACT UP (508) 487-2063.

Hindsights

The Fabulous Lypsinka Show

With John Epperson as Lypsinka.
Thurs.-Sun., Nov. 14-17. Club
Cabaret, 209 Columbus Ave., Boston.
Tickets \$12-14. Info: 536-0972.

Reviewed by Jacob Smith Yang

I was nervous at the prospect of reviewing *The Fabulous Lypsinka Show*. From a mention and photograph I came across in an issue of *Vanity Fair*, I knew the show was a one-(wo)man revue in which John Epperson—looking something like a Carol Burnett parody of supermodel Dovima dons showgirl drag and lip synchs to campy songs of 1950's B-grade night-club divas like Dolores Gray, Fay McKay, Julie Wilson, Kaye Ballard, and many more. My concern was that, coming from a generation whose great, sex-pot female performers include Grace Jones, Wendy O. Williams, Lydia Lunch and Nina Hagen, I wouldn't be familiar enough with the material to really "get it."

To top that off, the night of the performance brought a relapse of my two-week-old flu symptoms, including frequent, violent coughing fits. I was sure that the performance would be way beyond my appreciation, and that I would make a utter fool of myself, doubled over and hacking phlegm throughout the show. Then, I remembered that several years ago I had been able to repress similar symptoms during a miserable high-school presentation of *Sweet Charity*, by discreetly sipping from a bottle of Robitussin kept in my coat's breast pocket.

Something told me that taking swigs of cough medicine might draw unwanted attention from the Club Cabaret clientele and/or my companion. So during the fifteen minutes before I arrived for the show I downed half a seven-ounce bottle I bought at Christy's several blocks away.

I explain this because taking excessive doses of Robitussin (termed "tussing" in the teenybopper drug subculture) can lead to dizziness, sleeplessness and nervousness. In addition to these symptoms, I felt a not unpleasant tingling sensation under my scalp. Had I been attending a performance of the

Lyps like sugar

"*The Fabulous Lypsinka Show*" is!



Lypsinka

Boston Gay Men's Chorus, I would have been in a great deal of trouble.

Luckily, the frenetic psychodrama of *The Fabulous Lypsinka Show* was amazingly in

synch with my zooming frame of mind, perhaps enhancing my enjoyment. The heavily eyelashed, red-wigged Lypsinka opened the show with Giselle Mackenzie's "Opening

Song," and at once I was impressed with the technical proficiency of Epperson's lip synching. A subsequent rendition of Julie Wilson's "I'm a Bad, Bad, Bad, Bad Woman," with its rapid machine-gun enunciation, left me in awe.

Lypsinka's heavily painted lips were not the only well-coordinated motions on stage. Epperson's sweepingly choreographed dance moves and posing transformed what might have been called a lanky, six-foot-two-and-then-some body into Vegas show-girl legs and Grace Kelly arms.

Lypsinka's vintage wardrobe, consisting of two black-and-white ensembles with lots of tulle, sequins, feathers and satin, further enhanced her authenticity. In my mind, I could almost smell the moth balls as Epperson mouthed the words to Penny Fuller's "One Halloween."

The dizzying highlight of the show consisted of two segments in which Lypsinka rushes between three spotlighted places on stage to pantomime answering telephones that keep ringing. Watching her lip synch in rapid succession snippets of dialogue from the films of Bette Davis, Joan Crawford, Judy Garland, Ethel Merman, Pearl Bailey, Gloria Swanson and Agnes Moorehead was like experiencing a Vulcan mind meld with some kind of '50s pop culture queen on acid. Well, it might have been the Robitussin.

That Epperson has selected bawdy, off-color songs (such as Patty "Cup Cake" O'Mason's "Cupcakes" and Gayle Clark's "Whatever Lola Wants") and makes them seem more outrageous is nothing new. What is amazing is that Lypsinka, in taking the performance aspect very seriously, seems to elevate the gay male passtime of lip synching while dressed in drag to an art. As a gay male who spent not a little chunk of his childhood in front of a mirror wearing his mother's make-up and bed sheets lip synching to Barbara Striesand records, I could not help but feel something affirming in watching Epperson. Here was a man up on stage, receiving applause and gaining some kind of artistic appreciation, by doing what used to make my mother cry. I think that is a primary part of Lypsinka's appeal. □

LOOK WHO'S COMING OUT FOR GCN!

URVASHI VAID, TIM MCFEELEY, KATE CLINTON, ALISON
BECHDEL, THE HAT SISTERS AND HARRY HAY INVITE YOU TO AN

AUTUMN FROLIC

HOSTED BY STEVEN TIERNEY. WITH KEVIN CATHCART, MICHAEL
CRONIN, HARRY COLLINGS, GARY DAFFIN, SUE HYDE, ARLINE
ISAACSON, GEORGE NOLLEY, LIZ PAGE AND MANY OTHERS.

**6:00-8:30 P.M.,
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22,
AT CLUB CABARET**

209 COLUMBUS AVE. AT BERKELEY ST.

ENTERTAINMENT WITH CABARET STAR BELLE LINDA
HALPERN, JAFFEE COHEN OF FUNNY GAY MALES,
BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA MUSICIANS AND
MORE...

LIVE AUCTION WITH ITEMS NEVER BEFORE OFFERED:

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- TAKE THE STAGE TO WELCOME 90,000 LESBIANS AND GAY MEN TO BOSTON'S PRIDE NEXT JUNE
- DO THE LUNCH THING WITH TIM MCFEELEY AND URVASHI VAID
- BID ON GAY MEMORABILIA FROM HARRY HAY, RICHARD BURNS AND OTHERS...
- BID ON WEEKEND GET-AWAYS IN P-TOWN, ART, THEATRE TICKETS, TRAVEL, SALONS, DINNERS, MASSAGES, AUTOGRAPHED BOOKS...AND MUCH, MUCH MORE...VALUED AT OVER \$5,000

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ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT GCN'S FIGHT FOR SURVIVAL.

Belle Linda Halpern

